

6.12 SAINT RONAN'S PANDEMIC POLICY (2020)

PANDEMIC

Introduction

1. The Government will implement a public education campaign early on in the event of a pandemic, on the nature of the infection and the measures the public and organisations can take to reduce its spread. Information will be widely available on Health Department websites and in leaflet form.

2. The Department of Health will coordinate the UK health response, procure appropriate drugs, lead the public health service response and provide information to other Government departments to assist them in their response arrangements.

Pandemic Stage- when cases are confirmed in the UK

3 . The School will:

- a. Monitor publications from the Public Health England (PHE) and DfE and update plans as necessary.
- b. Inform pupils about pandemic flu and the School's approach through Assemblies, form periods and PSHE lessons, at a level of detail appropriate to their age, comprehension and proximity of the threat.
- c. Post details of the latest health advice and this policy on the Website

When cases are confirmed in neighbouring schools

4 The Head will convene a meeting of key staff to:

- a. Review the latest Government and local Health Authority advice.
- b. Implement measures to reduce the risk of infection. These are likely to include, but not be limited to:
 - The cancellation of matches with other schools
 - The cancellation of visits to/by other schools and organisations (e.g. those that use the school's facilities)
 - The cancellation of school trips and visits
 - The cancellation of plays and concerts
 - The suspension of whole school assemblies
 - The cancellation of staff training, conferences and meetings at external venues
 - The implementation of basic precautions to reduce the risk of catching or spreading the infection

5. Parents and staff will be kept informed of events through regular updates on the school website

6. The symptoms of several different viruses and flu-like illnesses are similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza infection and may include: fever over 38c/100.4f, aching muscles, fatigue, lack of appetite, coughing, headache and sore throat. Some people with flu have also reported vomiting and diarrhoea.

Parents are asked to assist in reducing the spread of infection by ensuring that if either they or their children become ill, or think they may be ill, they follow Government self isolation guidelines in force at that time.

The same rules apply to staff.

7. Depending on the severity of the pandemic, it may become necessary to close the School until sufficient pupils and staff have recovered. This decision will be made by the Chairman of Governors, with advice from the Head, the School Doctor and in liaison with the PHE and local healthcare trust.

Pandemic infection is diagnosed in the School

8.

- a. In this instance it is likely that the School will be told by the Health Authorities to close for a set period of time to contain the outbreak. If the School is closed then the Website will be the main means of communication and information dissemination to parents.
- b. If the School is closed during Common Entrance exam week-the Head will liaise with the Senior Schools as necessary.

If the school is advised to stay open:

9. The School reserves the right to close boarding.

10. The Head will hold regular meetings to:

- a. Review the number of pupils and staff affected, and forecast return dates.
- b. Determine the necessary adjustments to classes, curriculum, activities and events, meals and school hours for the following day.
- c. Liaise with Senior Schools re Common Entrance candidates.
- d. Prepare updates for parents, pupils staff and governors.
- e. Prepare any information requested by the local authority (e.g. absence rates).
- f. Arrange for the distribution of antiviral drugs at the school by the relevant health authorities if advised

11 . During the course of a pandemic, the School will aim to:

- a. Maintain teaching and other activities by adjusting or merging classes as necessary, in line with the availability of pupils and staff.
- b. In the case of enforced closure the School will make every effort to ensure that the curriculum is delivered via the use of technology
- b. Set and correct homework for those pupils who are in quarantine or convalescing at home, via the internet, or by mail for those without that facility.
- c. Do everything reasonably possible, to ensure that a catering service is maintained. However, should this become impossible, it may be necessary for pupils and staff to bring a packed lunch to school.
- d. Keep parents, staff and governors fully informed.

Person Responsible: JCB

Implemented 2010

Reviewed: March 2020