



## The de Ferrers Trust

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You might have heard yesterday's announcements from the government on new advice and measures taking place with regards to COVID-19 ('Coronavirus').

These included:

- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Pregnant women should take particular care to minimise their social contact (one aspect being they should really be allowed to work from home).

It is inevitable that both of these announcements, particularly the first, will have a significant effect on our staffing numbers.

This will mean that Principals, on a daily basis, will have to make a judgement on whether it is possible to keep their schools open. It is imperative that there are enough members of staff to adequately look after the children. If there isn't, then the school will have to close or part-close.

Other than knowing the situation will get worse, we have no way of predicting staffing levels. There is not an infinite amount of supply teachers and, even if there were, it is unwise to use too many at once.

I am writing to you because it is possible that your child's school will have no other option than to close, regardless of government directives. I don't wish to be alarmist. It's just that we have no way of predicting future absences.

I can assure you that the Principals and their staff will make every effort possible to keep their schools open in these challenging circumstances. We will keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

**Ian McNeilly**  
Chief Executive

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