

27th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you are all well and had an enjoyable and relaxing half-term break.

As you will be aware, the government has recently changed the law regarding COVID-19 and the legal requirement to self-isolate and has issued the guidance below:

“There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.”

Welcoming children back to school:

“In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19”

In order to protect pupils and staff from possible infection from COVID-19, Emmaus MAC has taken the decision, at the current time, to follow public health advice. We, are, therefore, requesting that if children or staff have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test result, that they stay at home and avoid contact with other people, as outlined in the link below published on 24th February 2022:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

The above link advises that if a person has any one of the following three main symptoms, they should order a PCR test and are advised to stay at home whilst awaiting the result of the PCR test:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of smell or taste

If the PCR test is negative, the individual may return immediately to school/work. If the PCR test is positive, the individual should follow the guidance as detailed in the link above. This outlines that most people will no longer be infectious after five days and provides a flow chart on how to safely return to their normal routine before 10 days.

The guidance also advises that “children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their educational setting whilst they are contagious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their





symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.”

This decision will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, in line with government and public health guidance, and you will be informed of any future changes as soon as they arise. However, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school, should you require any further clarification.

Finally, thank you all so much for your continued support and, as we rapidly approach the season of Lent, please join Emmaus MAC in responding to Pope Francis’s call for Christians around the world to fast and pray for peace in Eastern Europe this coming Ash Wednesday 2nd March.

May you all have a blessed and reflective Lent.

God Bless

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Our journey with Christ

