Ivel Valley School

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16th March 2020

Coronavirus: COVID 19 – Position Statement for Parents & Carers

Government guidance issued on 16th March 2020 gave the following guidance:
"staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal".

"if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home".

Ivel Valley School will only close as a last resort. However, we acknowledge the following guidance from the UK government; *"PHE will rarely advise a school to close but this may be necessary if there are so many staff being isolated that the school has operational issues"*. This is the most likely outcome for Ivel Valley School due to the high number of specialist staff required for the school to operate.

Learning at home – All of the pupils at Ivel Valley have special educational needs. This presents a significant barrier to e-learning and learning at home. We recognise that this places parents and carers in a difficult position and that the impact of closing Ivel Valley School would be significant. We have therefore adopted a number of pro-active measures, as defined in our school's flu plan, to stay open as long as possible.

Parents who would like to access online learning resources can do so through the Twinkl website (www.twinkl.co.uk/offer) and signing up with the code: UKTWINKLHELPS . Access to the Twinkl website is not normally free of charge.

In the case of a closure, teachers will contact parents to let them know their child's next steps in each of the four areas of your child's EHCP as soon as possible (if they are well enough to do this). This information will be compiled *after* a closure as pupils' needs evolve during the course of the year.

Helpline numbers- We recognise that many children, young people and their families rely on the support of Ivel Valley in a number of ways. This includes support with behaviour, safeguarding, regular meals, key working with other professionals, and social contact. The closure of Ivel Valley School will place additional burden on a number of families and other services. We recognise that the school plays a significant role in the community.

We are continuing to liaise with Children's Services at Central Bedfordshire Council, the NHS specialist school nurses, and other local authorities where necessary.

The following helplines and contacts may be of use to parents and carers during a school closure:

- Central Bedfordshire Council Children with Disabilities Team Eastern Hub – 0300 300 8314
- Child Development Centre Kempston – 01234 310278
- Central Bedfordshire Council – 0300 300 8000
- Letchworth Food Bank – 07825 300437 – info@letchworth.foodbank.org.uk – http://letchworth.foodbank.org.uk
- St Neots Foodbank – 01480 475426 – info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk – http://stneots.foocbank.org.uk
- The Need Project - 07952 765302 - admin@theneedproject.co.uk - https://www.theneedproject.co.uk/index.php

Joe Creswick
Principal