



Dear Sir/Madam,

Protecting & Supporting Pupils and Staff in relation to Coronavirus

We are contacting you as a school employer to ensure that protections are in place regarding the Covid-19 Coronavirus. As unions representing support staff we are committed to working jointly with employers to do all we can to try and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus and to keep pupils and staff safe.

As part of this effort we would therefore appreciate it if you could please confirm:

- That the Nation Joint Council guidance on Novel Coronavirus of 6th March will be followed as a minimum in relation to all staff - attached
- What provisions are in place to control the risk of exposure to Coronavirus? What risk assessments you have/will be undertaking
- That workers who are required or advised to self-isolate will receive normal pay, and no negative consequences in terms of disciplinary action on sickness absence grounds. Targets and triggers within occupational sickness policies should be suspended for any absences connected with Coronavirus.
- Employees should not be made to take annual leave if they need to self-isolate.

Following any school closures, employers should be fully supportive of staff with childcare responsibilities.

We are clear that preparation will be crucial in containing and delaying the spread of this virus and that that no member of staff should suffer financial detriment as a result of this unprecedented situation.

I would therefore be grateful if you would respond to these queries as soon as possible so that this information can be provided to members.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karen Leonard in black ink on a light grey background.

Karen Leonard
GMB National Officer

Handwritten signature of Jon Richards in black ink on a light grey background.

Jon Richards
UNISON National Secretary

Handwritten signature of Jim Kennedy in black ink on a light grey background.

Jim Kennedy
UNITE National Secretary