



IDPE's response to the coronavirus situation

Every organisation is now impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and in response, IDPE has introduced a working from home policy to ensure that we can continue to support you with accessible and relevant guidance during these unprecedented times.

How will IDPE continue to support you?

Support

- **Regional meetings:** whilst we have had to cancel all remaining regional meetings this term, we will be introducing 'virtual' meetings as an opportunity for members to continue to network and share expertise.
- **Members' forum:** don't forget to use our members' forum to get your questions answered.
- **IDPE support:** IDPE has introduced a working from home policy, however all staff are still available. Please do get in touch either via [e-mail](#) or on 01225 829030 (please leave a message and we will respond within 24 hours).

Professional development

- **Webinars:** Alongside our existing programme, we will be introducing additional webinars to support members with adapting to the ever-changing situation.
- **Online resources:** the next in our series of guides, *Maximising parent engagement: how can parent associations and development work together*, developed in collaboration with Parentkind, will launch next week.

Working in partnership

We will continue to work with our partners, across both the schools and fundraising sectors, to share best practice and support your school during this time.

IDPE 2020 Annual Conference

At this present time, the IDPE 2020 Annual Conference will be going ahead on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 June 2020. Find out more about **this year's programme** and **book now**. Please note, that a full refund will be issued if we are forced to cancel the conference due to a government directive (please see [conference T&Cs](#) for further information).

What can you do now?

With temporary school closures highly likely in the coming weeks, it can be difficult to see how to plan ahead during these uncertain times. Here's our top five tips to get you started:

- **Reach out to your community:** this is an opportunity to focus on engagement – your community will undoubtedly include those at higher risk, so how can you support them? How can you be a lifeline to the most vulnerable in your community?
- **Tell them how they can help:** it's important to communicate with your school community the impact of COVID-19 on your school, reassure your community that you are doing all that you can, but also don't be afraid to tell them how they can help.
- **Review your events:** reunions, networking events, career days – review your calendar of events with the view of delaying any face-to-face events that are imminent.
- **Move online:** consider what you might be able to deliver online, could you hold a 'virtual' reunion or deliver a careers' talk online?
- **Be prepared:** with home-working now encouraged, some events likely to be on hold, and imminent school closures, what can you continue to do now? Can you plan your next campaign? A giving day? A calendar of online events? Can you and your team work from home? Do you have virtual access to the database? Planning for disruption is key.

Challenging times provide us with the opportunity to be more creative and to consider what we can do differently. At IDPE, we have shifted our focus to support our members in new ways, and what is clear is that the sense of community within IDPE grows even stronger as we pull together to support each other in these extraordinary times.