



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers

The government has this morning issued further guidance to schools and parents. Schools will remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children where they can.

The core principle remains that, if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The government's guidance makes it clear that:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them if they cannot be at home. Many parents working in critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home; every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.
- This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.
- For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

Vulnerable children include those with education, health and care (EHC) plans, and children who have a social worker (children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority). We will be contacting parents of vulnerable children proactively to assess whether they need provision.

Critical workers include NHS staff, police, farmers and food retail workers/delivery drivers, who need to be able to go out to work, in order to continue to offer critical services as part of the country's ongoing response to the virus. A full list can be found at the following link: [Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision](#)

If you believe that you are a critical worker and need your child(ren) to be supervised at school, please complete the form using the link below no later than midday on Saturday 21 March, to let us know so we organise our staff accordingly and confirm provision: <https://forms.gle/GHi8Kd5kucFycNa6A>

We will presume your job role **does not** fall into any critical worker category if you do not contact us. **Students whose places are confirmed should arrive for a normal school-length day (8.35am - 3.20pm) and bring a packed lunch, reporting to reception on arrival.** School uniform is not required.

In summary for all parents, please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Peters
Deputy Headteacher