



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear all,

It is now clear that all children with an EHCP or a social worker can access school provision from Monday, should the parents wish them to.

Below is the government guidance regarding 'Key-workers' which we received this morning.

All parents will be sent a link to a survey later this morning.

You will only be able to access our provision if:

- You are a sole carer and a key worker as outlined below, AND you are unable to arrange childcare through another means
- Both parents are key workers as outlined below, AND you are unable to arrange childcare through another means

In this time of National emergency we know our school community will work together to ensure that this provision can continue to run for the families it is most critical for. Please only use this provision if it is absolutely necessary as staffing numbers are likely to fall in the coming weeks as the virus spreads. There could become a point in the future, in which the provision will be unable to run due to low staffing levels making it unsafe for pupils.

If numbers are high, we may need to prioritise or evidence of your job role may be required.

**The survey will need to be completed by 1pm today so that we can devise a plan for Monday.**

Please DO NOT telephone school regarding this as we will be busy analysing the results of the survey. Survey link to follow.

### **Government Guidance**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

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.

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5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

#### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

#### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

#### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies. **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

#### **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

#### **Transport**

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This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Thank you for your patience, we are working hard to ensure this provision can run and will be in touch again shortly with the link to complete.

Mrs C Stalham  
Headteacher

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