

20 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

'Emergency Service' Provision for Key Workers' children

School will be closed from the end of today other than providing an 'Emergency Service' provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children who absolutely need to attend. I can now confirm our plans for this, following government advice which I have only received this morning. A link to the advice is at the end of the letter.

School will close at the end of today and there is no expectation that any pupil will then attend school until the advice from Government changes. You are asked to **keep your children at home, wherever possible** but we have been asked to stay open for children who are vulnerable and those whose children where both parents/carers are critical to the COVID-19 response if they are unable to find alternative arrangements for their children.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments need to remain safe places for children. The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The key worker groups include but are not restricted to:

- Health Care Staff
- Social Care Staff
- Education Staff
- Military Personnel
- Emergency Services
- Council workers needed for essential work
- Drivers delivering essential goods
- People working in the health and social care supply chain
- Food production and distribution
- Financial services
- Utilities(gas/electric/water etc)
- Volunteers supporting the critical sectors

Please note that there is no requirement for children of these key workers to attend school. You are encouraged to make alternative arrangements if you can do so following the key principles below.

Here is an extract from the government advice attached and you are asked to 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.*
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.

We will therefore be open on Monday for the children of the key groups identified above, if needed.

Please complete the survey below today, if you need to use this provision.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RPGL9KZ>

Yours sincerely



Mr P Hemmings
Headteacher

Link to full guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>