

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus): Provision for Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

The cabinet office has now issued a list of who is to be classified as a key worker and who is identified as meeting the vulnerable criteria (has an allocated social worker or has an EHCP). The highest priority will be for families where **both** parents are keyworkers or where a sole parent is a key worker. **Schools have closed to ensure social distancing, so if one parent is available to look after children at home, this is recommended. It is our firm belief that as many children as possible need to be at home, with their families, shielding themselves from the spread of the virus and we will only be able to make provision for pupils who fall into these two criteria. There will be no exceptions.**

Please see Appendix 1 at the end of this letter to see if you are classed as a 'Key worker'.

We realise that this will be troublesome for some parents/carers, but we cannot make individual arrangements in the interests of fairness, consistency and minimising social contact. Please be considerate and do not put us in a difficult position by asking us to accommodate your child if they do not fulfil the criteria. **We may be working with other local primary schools to combine provision so your child may be provided for in a different setting. School staff would still be accompanying children and safeguarding procedures would be in place.**

Please be aware that those children who do attend will be undertaking similar activities to those of their peers who are working at home. The purpose of school closures is to minimise contact and therefore we will be providing skeleton staffing to provide supervision and care for pupils who will be attending. This means that we will not be running a normal timetable. It is perhaps worth noting that the Secretary of State has been clear that this is an entirely different role for schools and their staff. It is primarily about care, not education.

If you are an identified keyworker we will need to plan staffing and we will need to know in advance which pupils we will have in attendance. Therefore please complete the parentmail survey as soon as possible. All responses must be received by 2pm on Friday 20th March please if we are to make decisions about access to school on Monday.

Upon receipt of your information, we will assess the validity of your request, confirm by email the attendance arrangements, and then be able to establish daily registers of pupils. If you indicate that your child will attend and this changes for any reason, please let us know.

Apologies for having to be so prescriptive about this; we know you will understand why this is necessary.

It remains the case that if we do not have enough staff to care for pupils safely (even based on the new 'reduced provision' approach') then, subject to a risk assessment and consultation with the chair of governors, a full or partial closure may be necessary. We will need to keep this decision under daily review.

There has been an indication from the Secretary of State that he would like schools to continue to provide this service to key workers over the upcoming Easter break. We will await further details before making any plans in this regard. We regret very much having to put these arrangements in place and we thank you for your understanding and patience.

Our whole community is in our thoughts. We hope you are all able to navigate the next period of time with minimal difficulty and we too look forward to a time when our school can be reunited and return to normal.

With my thanks for your support and my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Delia Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'C'.

Delia Cooper

Appendix 1: Key Worker List

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

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.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.