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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have this morning received guidance as to who we are able to offer school places to during this period of school closures.

Vulnerable children

- Children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- However, if your child has one of the identified medical needs (guidance received March 18th) we have been advised that they should not be in school.

Children of 'key workers'

DfE guidance states:

'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.*

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Paul Harrison CEO September 2018





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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’.

Critical sectors are defined by the DfE as:

Health and social care

This includes 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.

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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 arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food 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.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision, as well as key staff working in the field of engineering, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services, payments providers and waste disposal sectors. If you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

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Please remember that guidance says that **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**. However, if you do require a place in school and feel you qualify for one of the above categories please contact the school office today by **2.00 pm**.

Please give the following details:

- The category under which you qualify for a place (please provide evidence of key worker status (ie ID badge, qualifications etc)
- The days on which you will require a place
- Whether your child is in receipt of free school meals

School will be open on **Monday 30th March running from 9.00 to 3.00 pm** for these children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kathryn Harvey
Headteacher

Can we please remind you that if you and your family are self-isolating we do not expect to see you until after the 14 day isolation period

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