



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

The Government's definition of a critical worker and vulnerable child is extensive and unless we prioritise, we may not be able to support the families and workers that require help the most. **Should the school receive too many requests for childcare we may have to bring in a tiered approach.** The function of the school will be **childcare** only.

Current government guidance regarding eligibility for school care as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 is the children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can potentially send their children into school if required. **However, we must emphasise that the government guidance also states that "many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can safely be cared for at home should be."** Therefore, the information you may be asked to provide to school today about your situations and why you require school-based childcare will be essential. If you are a critical worker, we may be asking for you to give us contact details including the full name and telephone number of your supervisor so that we can clarify that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances. We may also need to get back in touch with you via telephone for further clarification.

Please note, the current guidelines around self-isolation regarding symptoms of the coronavirus including a temperature of over 37.8 and/or a persistent cough are still in force. In the next few days school leaders will have to make some incredibly difficult decisions and hold some incredibly challenging conversations with families who are understandably distressed at this time. **We ask that you please work with us and not against us as we do this.**

For children coming into school as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the following measures/precautions must be taken:

- Own clothes to be worn that are fresh on – we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly and exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.
- We must register your child in and out of the premises at the school gate by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you know they are fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you become ill with coronavirus symptoms you must immediately contact school and arrange the collection of your child.



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- Social distancing **MUST** be enforced for your child when they are not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School must be informed if you no longer fall into the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough handwashing must take place prior to leaving the home.
- Children must be dropped off at 8.45am and collected no later than 3.25pm as previously agreed.
- BEST Club will be open as normal for parents **who are key workers only** and there will be no school based extra-curricular activities.
- **Children attending school will be required to attend with their home learning packs which were sent home yesterday.**
- **Childcare will only be provided where critical workers are required for work. Therefore, you will need to inform us of details as soon as possible so that we can arrange and organise staffing for each day. For example, if you are a nurse who works 2 days per week there will be an expectation that you will care for your child on the other days.**

**As a country, we need to do all we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus and the government has asked parents wherever possible to keep their children at home. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Schools are being asked to provide CHILDCARE for those who absolutely need to attend and cannot be kept safe at home. Please try and support us to stay open for key workers.**

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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. If one parent is able to work from home, the expectation is that they will have the ability to keep their child safe with them.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#). **I will be contacting you today regards this - you do not need to contact school.**

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 of children who are not in school 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.

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:

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.

**Key worker Criteria:**

**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.**

Yours faithfully

N Longstaff  
Headteacher



