

Dear parent,

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why **the government has asked parents to keep their children at home**, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only** for those children who absolutely need to attend.

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**

The Department for Education published its list of critical workers in the early hours of this morning:

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.

To minimise the risk to our community, we would ask that **only people who are identified as critical workers** [contact the school office via telephone](#) **as soon as possible**, to enable us to plan for those children who require childcare during the enforced closure period. Children who have an EHCP and have a social worker will automatically qualify for this support, but their siblings who do not have an EHCP do not, unless their parents are identified as critical workers.

Children who do access school during this time will be required to wear school uniform and our working day will remain the same, so they will need to be in school for 08:55 and will need to be picked up at 15:15. Drop off and pick up will be via the main school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the last few weeks, especially the kind and supportive words that you have shared with me and our team, these past few days. You are in our thoughts and prayers, stay safe and keep in touch.

Kindest regards

Louise Roberts