

Dear Parents,

Government issued this information at midnight last night.

Schools are closing at the end of today and will only provide support for a small proportion of pupils as we have to follow these 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.

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.**

As the measures to close school are in force to reduce social contact in order to prevent virus spread we are not able to have lots of children in school. So many of our parents fall into the key worker category that we could end up with huge numbers in school and an extremely unsafe environment in respect of Covid-19. We will attempt to provide as much wrap around care and care during holidays as we can.

We are forced, in the first instance, to say that we will only be offering places to pupils who have both parents who are key or critical worker and who do not have a parent or sibling of older teenage years (16+) to look after them at home.

I know there will be many parents who wish that they did not have to bring their child into what will be an environment with a heightened risk of contracting Covid-19. I wish to re-assure you that all my staff will move mountains to keep your children safe. To that end, at the end of school today the Year 3 classroom will be converted into an isolation room and sickbay. Any child or staff member (unable to immediately leave) who becomes unwell with symptoms while in our care will be immediately removed to this symptom isolation room. No symptom free person will enter the room or take temperatures as we have no protective wear or equipment. Family members will be called immediately.

We will also not allow entry into the building by any parent or visitor. The school doors will be locked at all times and children will only be outside at the rear of the school and away from fences.

The information about who is a critical or key worker is given below. But please do not contact school requesting places by email to the head teacher yet. We will be in touch letting you know how to do this shortly.

Critical/Key workers

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.

Our staff will do all they can to play their part in keeping the country going through this crisis at the same time as attempting to keep everyone safe and well. They are working under tremendous pressure at the same time as trying to keep their own families safe and well.

God bless us all.