

Dear Parents,

20th March 2020

Childcare provision at school

As a school community, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. That is why the government has taken the very difficult decision to close schools and asked parents to do everything they can to keep children at home. As a school we are being asked only to provide child care for a **limited** number of children. We have already identified children with particular needs who should be in school for all or part of the week and we have spoken to those parents. All other children should not attend school on Monday unless you have received written confirmation from the school that your child can attend. A booking system will be in place and further communication will be sent out to families of children who are eligible to attend.

Last night the Government released a list of 'key workers' who are critical to the COVID-19 response. These are people involved in:

- **Health and social care**
- **Education and childcare**
- **Key public services**
- **Local and national government**
- **Food and other necessary goods**
- **Public safety and national security**
- **Transport**
- **Utilities, communication and financial services**

The full government guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

I understand that many parents have very important jobs and are seen as extremely valued members of workplace teams however there are also parents whose work is absolutely critical to the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will also be parents who are critical workers who are able to keep their children at home.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

If you are unable to make arrangements for your child to be cared for safely at home and you are required to be at work because you are critical to the country's Covid-19 response, then please complete the form below and return to the school office as soon as possible.

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 there is any question as to whether you fall into the categories above the school will request evidence of this from your employer.

Thank you for your continued support in these very difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Woolley

Headteacher

Request for Childcare at St Mary's Primary School

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response **and** your child cannot be safely cared for at home please ask your employer to confirm this and sign the form below. This form should be emailed to the school or handed in to the School Office.

For the attention of employer:

As a school community, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. That is why the government has taken the very difficult decision to close schools and asked parents to do everything they can to keep children at home. As a school we are being asked only to provide child care for a **limited** number of children. Parents are being asked to follow the key principles below:

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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

The Government guidelines for schools give the following definitions of key workers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response. These include:

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.

Please complete the form below if you are of the opinion that your employee named above falls into one of these categories.

I confirm that _____ (parent's name) works as a _____
in the _____(company name/business).

I confirm that this business satisfies the definition of the ticked category above. (Tick as appropriate)

I also confirm that based on our business continuity arrangements their role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service and their work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

Signed _____

Name _____

Position in company above _____

Email address/phone number _____