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Dear Parents/Carers

Children Eligible for School Attendance from Monday 23rd March 2020

Further information has now been released regarding which children will be eligible for school from Monday 23rd March. This includes clear guidelines in terms of the scope and purpose of the school closure, the responsibility there is on parents to keep children at home where this is possible and also more information about the definition of key workers.

As we need to have an idea of the number of students who may be in school in order to make appropriate contingency plans, please can any parents and carers who are key workers (see definitions below) who intend to send their children into school following the closure today make contact with us as soon as possible by completing the questions included in this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TKQXSX7>

Could you please respond as soon as possible today, Friday 20th March. If you have already responded to the questionnaire issued yesterday you DO NOT need to respond again.

Please only complete the survey if you are a key worker and intending to send your child in to school from Monday. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to teach normal lessons. These children will be supervised and will be able to access the same materials for self-study as those working at home.

The guidance is as follows:

["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.](#)



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Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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.

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:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

This is the guidance in full. If you wish to read it for yourself on-line then the link is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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:



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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).



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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. 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.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease."



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We would like to clarify the situation with keeping the school open from Monday 23rd March only for the students specified by the government, ie students with an allocated social worker, those with EHCPs (Education Health Care Plan) and the children of parents who are key workers. In order to prepare a viable plan, we need to have the information as quickly as possible. Only a small number of staff will be available, in these unprecedented circumstances, to supervise students as they need to minimise risks to themselves and their own families.

If you have any other queries, in the first instance, please refer find attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that the school has made available on its website (<https://www.pks.coventry.sch.uk/news/?pid=36&nid=5&storyid=1568>). These will be updated regularly as more information becomes available from the Government.

We know that many families are going to find the school closure extremely challenging in many ways but we all have to operate within the guidelines we are being given. Everyone has a social responsibility at this time to act appropriately and with respect to all. We have been very proud of the community during this challenging period and I know that same spirit will continue over the next weeks – we need to remain a strong school community even when geographically separated.

We wish you and your families all the very best in these uncertain times.

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