

CEC/DNA/JWI

20 March 2020



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Dear Parent / Carer

Headteacher: David Naisbitt

Last night the Government provided schools with the guidance for schools on supporting children of Key Workers and vulnerable learners.

In the first instance they are very clear that 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.

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. We would appeal to parents on the list to follow the first principle of keeping their children at home if it is at all possible from Monday onwards and to only send them to school if there is no safe alternative.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

A member of the Inspire Trust



Registered in England: 08775996

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.

The Key Worker Groups are classified as:

- 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

Full details of the roles included under these broad headings can be found at:

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

If you do require our support for all or part of the week and you fall into one of these specified roles, please complete the survey as soon as possible by following the link below. The school will be open from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00 am to 3.30 pm Friday. Please specify if you can, the days you require child care. Pupils only need to be in school when there is no safe supervision at home due to work commitments. They will be set independent work in line with our strategy to provide work for all pupils and will be required to bring a packed lunch if they are in school all day.

[tinyurl.com/OakwoodEssentialWorkers](https://www.tinyurl.com/OakwoodEssentialWorkers)

Further guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times. Working together and following the principles of social distancing as much as possible, will reduce the spread of the virus and help us all return more quickly to a state of normality. Thank you for your continued support and patience during these uncertain times

Yours faithfully



Chris Eccles
Deputy Headteacher



David Naisbitt
Headteacher