

Dear Parents and Carers,

Government guidance states that we are mandated to stay open for vulnerable children and children of key workers in order to provide childcare provision. We have now received detailed guidance from the government with regards to 'Key Workers'. Key workers are defined as:

<p><u>Health and Social Care Workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctors • Nurses • Midwives • Paramedics • Social Workers • Care workers • Support and specialist staff required to maintain the sector • Health and Social Supply chain 	<p><u>Utilities, Communication and Financial Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Financial Provision • Oil, Gas, Electricity and water workers • IT and data infrastructure • Civil Nuclear workers • Chemicals workers • Telecommunications workers • Postal service and delivery • Payment providers • Waste disposal sectors 	<p><u>Key Public Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice system workers • Religious staff • Charities delivering key frontline services • Workers who manage the deceased • Journalists and public service broadcasters
<p><u>Local and National Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of COVID-19 response • Delivery of essential public services, eg payment of benefits 	<p><u>Necessary Goods (Food, Hygiene, Veterinary medicines)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery • Those essential to the delivery of other key goods 	<p><u>Public Safety and National Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Support Staff • Ministry of Defence • Armed Forces Personnel • Fire and Rescue • National Crime Agency • Border Security • Prison and Probation Staff
<p><u>Transport (Passenger and Freight)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air, Road, Water, Rail 	<p><u>Education and Childcare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Staff • Teaching staff • Social Workers • Specialist education professionals 	

The government guidance is clear that ***'many parents working in these key sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept safe at home'*** and ***'that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be'***.

Also, 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 schools to remain open ***only for those children who absolutely need to attend***. We are working hard to try to ensure we can safely and effectively staff such provision. If we find ourselves in a position that we are unable to do this, current government guidance is that you should contact the local authority, who will be able to find you a school that is able to provide support. As such, we will be applying very strict evidential criteria to ensure we prioritise childcare for families most needed by our country at this time.

If you believe that you are a key worker who cannot safely care for your child at home, please respond with the following information:

Child's Name	Your name, occupation and employer (please provide as much information as to the nature of the work you do if it not obvious in your occupation title)	Your partner's name, occupation and employer (please provide as much information as to the nature of the work you do if it not obvious in your occupation title)

This childcare provision will be in place to support key workers who are 'on shift' during the times the school will be open. As a result, you may not receive 5 days of childcare support each week. Information related to shift patterns will be needed to confirm eligibility.

This is an unprecedented moment in our national life, and we realise everyone is concerned. **However, under no circumstance should you send your child into school unless you are able to demonstrate your clear need for this childcare provision.** Please do not treat this provision as convenient childcare and adhere to the principles of social distancing wherever possible following government advice. **If this advice is not taken seriously, our own workforce may not be available to support those key workers who really need to be in their posts keeping our country safe.**

As the vast majority of our pupils will not be returning to school for the foreseeable future, we wish you all well at this challenging time.