

URGENT - KEY WORKER INFORMATION REQUIRED

Dear Parent/Carer

More specific information on school attendance from Monday finally appeared from the government overnight (link below).

The 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.**

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

If your work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response, and you work on the frontline of one of the critical sectors listed here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your child(ren) will be prioritised for education provision.

Before looking at the list of what may constitute 'keyworkers' please read these paragraphs from the government statement (also note that this is an offer to parents and **there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their child(ren) to school if they do not need or wish to do so:**

*"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 and cannot be safely cared for at home.***

*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.***

I would urge you to consider this advice very seriously. Whilst we are partially open and we want to do everything to support the government's strategy to tackle COVID-19, it would defeat the whole purpose of this measure if more children than absolutely necessary were in school. Please bear in mind that we want to have the capacity to be able to cater for the children of those workers who are critical to the COVID-19 response at a time when school staffing is also depleted as staff have their own health concerns and vulnerable members in the household to consider too.

Children absolutely **MUST NOT** be in school if reasonable, safe alternative arrangements can be made. Neither should they be in because you feel they'll benefit from a continuing education. That may sound drastic, but it's the stark truth of the situation we are in: we are effectively opening as a shelter to allow key workers to do their invaluable work during this crisis. Rest assured for those who do have to send their children in, that staff will ensure that they feel safe, secure and are occupied with meaningful activities. The welfare and mental health of the children who come in is crucial at a time when their parents/carers are on the frontline of this emergency.

If you feel your child needs a school place from Monday 23rd March 2020, please complete the survey below before midday on Friday 20th March:

I appreciate that this only gives you a limited time frame in which to reply in, however, we have only just been given this guidance by the Government and we need to make firm plans in terms of staffing etc ready for Monday.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support during this difficult time

Key Worker Survey - COVID-19

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for a limited amount of children who absolutely need to attend. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, I am writing to request urgent completion of this form by midday on Friday 20th March. This way, we can ensure there are enough staff for this provision.

Full name of child or children	
Child's class	
Role (Please note that proof of your employment will be required for your child to enter the school site on Monday). Full details 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	
Work Sector Proof of employment in these sectors will be required eg identity badge, wage slip, email from employer using an official work address, or confirmation on letter-headed paper	<input type="radio"/> Health and social care
	<input type="radio"/> Education and childcare
	<input type="radio"/> Key public services
	<input type="radio"/> Local and national government
	<input type="radio"/> Food and other necessary goods
	<input type="radio"/> Public safety and national security
	<input type="radio"/> Transport
	<input type="radio"/> Utilities, communication and financial services
What provision do you require for your child? Please note that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.	
<input type="radio"/> Full time (Mon-Fri)	<input type="radio"/> Partial
If your child only requires partial provision, please state below what days they need this and whether you require AM and/or PM provision.	
Your full name	
Best contact number to discuss any of the above if necessary.	
Best email address to contact you on.	

Kind regards,

Gary Fullwood