



20 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Latest Update

The Government has now provided further guidance to schools and parents on school closures. The full guidance is [here](#) and [here](#).

Key points the Government is emphasising to parents:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- For children who need specialist support, are vulnerable or have a parent who is a critical worker, then the Government is asking schools to remain open to provide care for a limited number of children, but **only for those who absolutely need to attend.** 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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](#).
- If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed in the appendix to this letter, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

What you need to do if you are a parent who works in one of the key sectors and cannot keep your child safe at home

You **must** complete this [survey](#) to inform us that you intend to send your child to school. This is critical so we know who to expect and can take a register. **Please complete this by 6pm today** or as soon as you get this if after 6pm. We may, in due course, need to seek evidence that your child is entitled to be in school and will be firm with parents whose children are not entitled to be in. This is because we fully support the Government's efforts to limit the spread of the virus through distancing measures.

Our intention is that provision at school will involve a skeletal staff who will supervise children undertaking the learning activities that have been set for all children, as per my [letter](#) to you on Wednesday. Usual start and end, and break and lunch arrangements will apply, and pupils coming into school will be expected to be in uniform. We have been informed by the Local Authority that usual school transport arrangements will apply. Please note, we may decide in due course to use just one of our schools, QEHS or HMS, as the venue, but will let you know if that is the case. In the meantime, provision will be at HMS.

For parents / carers of vulnerable children

If we have not already done so, we will contact you directly over the course of today. If for any reason you have not been contacted, please get in touch through the usual channels.

I shall write to you next week with further updates. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Atkins
Executive Headteacher

ANNEX List of critical sectors

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.