

IMPORTANT: The government have asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, so that schools can care for only those students who absolutely need to attend from Monday 23rd March.

Dear Parent/Carer

The government have closed all schools in England from Monday 23rd March. Further details can be found 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>

For the vast majority, this means that, for the foreseeable future, children will be 'educated at home'. I will be sending information shortly about how this should be managed.

Schools have been asked to provide an **emergency service** so that a small number of children can continue to attend school. This service is not educational; it is childcare in the form of supervised study.

To be clear, this emergency service will mean:

- Supervised study rooms where students will complete the work set by teachers on Show My Homework
- Mixed-age groups supervised by members of staff (not necessarily teachers).

Students will not be 'taught', but will be cared for and supported in the way that parents would at home. The normal school day timings will run and the usual conduct expectations will apply. However, these students will not be required to wear school uniform.

The **only** children allowed to access this emergency provision are:

1. Children of '**critical workers**'. Note that one or more parents/carers can be defined as key workers for the child/children to access this service.
2. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (**EHCP**)



3. Children specifically invited by the school to attend due to their family circumstances (these parents/carers have already been contacted).

Please continue to follow advice on self-isolation, which overrides the above. Children **MUST NOT** attend school, if self-isolated.

Information on eligibility criteria, including the categories of 'critical workers' 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>

It is not a requirement that those eligible access this service.

This offer is available to all year groups, 7 to 13.

All other children must stay at home until told otherwise. Students arriving at school who do not meet the criteria for this emergency provision will be sent home. Students at home should follow the government advice on social distancing and limiting social contact. They must not be outside of the family home during the school day without supervision.

Buses will run as normal. We are negotiating for this provision to continue beyond this period. A restricted menu will be available at break and lunchtime and payment will be taken as usual. Those entitled to free school meals will continue to receive this without charge.

To provide this service, I must organise a rota of staff, therefore I need to know how many students we should expect. If you believe you are entitled to access this emergency service, please fill in this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SHXS6YK> .

By completing this survey, you are declaring to the best of your knowledge that you are entitled to access this emergency service. You will be able to indicate whether you wish to send your children to school for all or some days of the week. Please note that you will have the right to withdraw your child/children at any time to supervise them at home.

Terms and Conditions

Students eligible and registered will be expected to attend on the agreed days unless there is an authorised reason for their absence. We reserve the right to withdraw the place if students do not attend or meet the school's expectations regarding study and conduct. We reserve the right to withdraw this emergency service entirely, or in part, at any time if it becomes unsustainable for the school or if alternative provision becomes available.

Safeguarding

We have been advised that students attending school in small numbers mean that they will not be placed at significant risk of contagion. We will be taking additional precautions in school. Students will be supervised in small groups and be distanced from each other whilst working. Hygiene routines will be enforced. Students will be supervised at all times and have staff available to talk to should they have a concern. Senior leaders will be on site to oversee provision.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Evans
Headteacher

CRITICAL WORKER CATEGORIES

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.

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.