

20th March 2020

Dear parents,

The government has released its 'key worker' list – see below. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home, then your children will be prioritised for education provision at EP in the coming weeks and will be registered on our 'Extraordinary Roll':

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, because, for example, another parent is able to work at home. The government guidance is very clear that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Schools, as the rest of the country, must advocate and support social distancing . As we move into this next phase it really is critical that we ALL take this seriously.

The government has also issued the following key principles:

- 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;
- Those of you at home should also do everything you 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. This does mean not setting up rotas of childcare amongst yourselves!
- Children with Education Health Care Plans and those considered to be vulnerable (looked after children, those who social workers) may also take a school place.

Can I also emphasize that this is not a service for children of those volunteering in the community.

Key worker list

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 you think you need to be part of our provision then please let the school office know TODAY by phone or email and we can begin to make plans. In the first instance we will be offering normal school hours. Once we have more of a sense of numbers and need, we may move to 8-6pm.

For all other children and parents, a reminder that school is closed from Monday. Thank you.

Kate Froud