

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will by now be aware of the list of key workers that the government released early this morning.

Current government guidance regarding eligibility for the school care as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required.

However, we must emphasise that the government guidance also states that “many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.” Therefore, the information you include on your form will be essential. This is an emergency service only for those who absolutely require it based on the list.

You will also be able to send your child to school if they have an EHCP (educational health care plan), have a social worker, are looked after child, they are a young carer, or have a safeguarding and welfare need. Please come and talk to us if you believe that your child is in this category.

We are asking parents to complete the form found below and email it to our school office by the end of the day please to give us information about your situation and why you require school based childcare. If you are a critical worker, we will be asking you to give us contact details including full name and telephone number of your employer so we can confirm that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances. We may also need to get in touch with you via telephone to gain some extra clarification.

Please note, the current guidance around self-isolation regarding symptoms of coronavirus including a temperature of over 37.8°C and/or a persistent cough are still in force. In the next few days, school leaders will have to make some incredibly difficult decisions and hold some incredibly challenging conversations with families who are understandably worried and anxious about their children and their families well-being. We ask that you please work with us and not against us as we do this.

The government defines you as a key worker if you fall into these key categories.

### **Health and social care**

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**

Teachers, Teaching Assistants, other school staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals.

### **Key public services**

Workers 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**

Essential local government administrative teams such as benefits workers, delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

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**

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**

Staff needed for essential financial services provision, 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 that you are a key worker and your job falls within one of these critical categories please check with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

**For children coming in to school as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the following measures/precautions **must** be taken:**

- We recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus. We have attached a blank form so that you can re submit your details.
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must **immediately** contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing **must** be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School **must** be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving the home.
- Children must be dropped off at 8.55am and picked up at 3.15am unless the school has an extended schools service which has been previously agreed.

Thank you for your continued support for our school community as we seek to help you and your family during these challenging times.

Yours Sincerely

Rachel Howie.

CEO Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust.