

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Children of critical workers

Further to the announcement that all schools will close apart from to critical workers, the government has now issued further guidance and clarification. The government has asked all parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. We are, of course, keen and committed to making this provision happen in the interests of the children and families concerned, the community, and the country.

The key statement outlined in the government advice is that even parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response should try to keep their child at home if it is possible for this to take place: every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

The principles they have asked us to adhere to are as follows:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then supervised, on-site educational provision will be available for them.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Please fill in the [survey](#) attached to indicate whether you or your spouse/partner are counted as a critical worker according to the government's definition [here](#) and indicate also if you would like your child to continue to attend school on a full-time or part-time basis. Children will be kept to restricted areas of the school to allow for extra cleaning and lunch will be provided each day (we will endeavour to provide a hot lunch when possible). We will then contact interested parents once we have ascertained numbers with a view to starting provision from Tuesday onwards, hopefully to continue throughout the Easter break (for children of critical workers and vulnerable children only) if staffing ratios permit. The College will remain closed at Easter to all other children, including the LRC study provision which is suspended at this time.

We would ask that children in the Senior School bring in their own device in order to access the remote learning programme so that we can avoid cross-contamination due to sharing desktop PCs.

Vulnerable children

If your child is in a vulnerable category (has an EHCP, a social worker or is disabled for example) then a member of your child's pastoral support team will be contacting you to find out if you would like your child to attend next week. Alternatively, you can contact your child's Head of Section directly. If your child is in this category and you are concerned the school is unaware then please contact me by email directly today.

Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement

We still have a number of parents in both Junior and Senior School who have not yet filled in the survey giving permission for their children to take part in interactive learning sessions. Today is our final day to collate responses to this before interactive learning starts next week so please could we ask you to prioritise completing this today so that your child can access the full experience.

Acceptable Use Agreement for Junior School children:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3ZSHXMJ>

Acceptable Use Agreement for Senior School children:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3JFPJHC>

Kind regards



Jade McLellan
Deputy Head Pastoral