

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

From Monday 23 March, schools in England will only stay open for children whose parents count as key workers and children who are vulnerable. **We need to ask you whether any parent/carer in your household is a key worker so we know whether your child or children will need to continue to come into school.** Only one parent or carer in a household needs to count as a key worker for this to apply to you. If you're not sure if this applies to you, ask your employer before responding.

Please take 2 minutes to respond today with the relevant information:

- Your name
- Names of all children in your household who attend our school
- Which any of the following roles apply to you:
 - Health and social care - doctor, nurse, midwife, paramedic, social worker, care worker, other frontline health and social care staff (paid or volunteer), producer or distributor of medicine or personal protective equipment
 - Education and childcare - teaching or nursery staff, social worker, and specialist education professional who needs to continue working during COVID-19 crisis
 - Key public services - staff in the justice system, religious staff, worker delivering key frontline services, responsible for management of the deceased, or a journalist or broadcaster providing public service broadcasting
 - Local and national government - staff responsible for delivering essential public services (e.g. delivering benefits)
 - Food production and delivery - staff involved in production, processing, delivery and sale of food and other key goods (e.g. hygienic and veterinary medicines)
 - National security - police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian, contractor, and armed forces personnel, fire rescue service employees (and support staff), National Crime Agency staff, border security staff, prison and probation staff
 - Transport - staff working to keep air, water, road, and rail transport running during the crisis (both freight and passenger)
 - Financial services - essential staff in financial services (including banks, building societies, and financial market infrastructure)
 - Communication - staff working network operations, field engineering, call centres, IT and data infrastructure, or 999 and 111
 - Utilities - staff in the oil, gas, electricity, and water sectors (including sewerage worker), civil nuclear and chemicals, waste disposal, postal service, or payment providers

You can find this [full list of roles](#) on the [GOV.UK](#) website.

Current guidance from DfE:

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other

educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But 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 whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined above. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 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 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.*
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.*

For further information please follow link: [Closure of Educational Settings - Information for Parents and Carers](#)