

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, the government announced its intention to close schools for almost all children as a measure to combat the spread of the Coronavirus until further notice. 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.**

The government has indicated that schools should continue to remain open and offer some form of provision for some groups of children. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

**Keyworker categories (taken from**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)

**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.

*Key workers are those who are **maintaining essential public services during the Covid-19 response**. However, to give some guidance the following outlines the broad categories of what would be defined as a key worker;*

- **Health and Social Care.** *This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector*
- **Education and childcare.** *This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response*
- **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



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for the continuation of this essential public service.

***The aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum.***

If you are an employee who falls into one of the following 'keyworker' categories, please email urgently us at [sbm@meadowside.warrington.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@meadowside.warrington.sch.uk) with the following information:

**Your child's name:**

**Child's Class:**

**Your full name:**

**Relationship to child:**

**Your specific job and title:**

**Name of your employer:**

**Please also indicate if you intend to send your child into school: Yes / No**

The information **must** be completed for **each** parent / carer who is a keyworker

**Please only complete this if you fall into the listed key worker categories as set out by the government and your child will be attending school. This is important to allow us to quickly process all emails across all the children.**

I am sure you understand the urgent need to collate this information so an immediate response would be greatly appreciated so we can plan accordingly. Please reply even if your child is self-isolating at the moment in case of the need for long-term planning.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and staff at this challenging time

Kind regards

Mr S. Wright  
Headteacher



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