



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear families,

The government has overnight produced further guidance for schools and families that we are now sharing with you all.

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

A key aspect of this for all of our families is this:

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.

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.

As a nation we have also been given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

Therefore 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. I ask all of our families to please adhere to this aspect of the guidance. It is a crucial aspect of our strategy to combat this disease.

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.**

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.

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.

Vulnerable children

Those pupils who are considered vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Key workers

The children of key workers are considered those whose parents' work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

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.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or 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.

- **Health and social care**
- **Education and childcare**
- **Key public services**
- **Local and national government**
- **Food and other necessary goods**
- **Public safety and national security**
- **Transport**
- **Utilities, communication and financial services**

Further detail on these groups can be found here:

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

If parents think they fall within the categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Please inform us by the end of the school day if you believe you fall into one of these categories, are not able to keep your child at home, and wish to continue to send your child to school. We need to know this urgently so we are able to prepare for Monday.

Please inform us of your request via telephone or email the school office:

0208 802 4051

GBoffice@newwavefederation.co.uk.

Wishing all of our families the very best at this challenging time, we urge you to follow government guidance and to do your bit to help the national effort and keep us all safe.



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Headteacher