

**Sir Charles
Parsons
School**



Westbourne Avenue
Walker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 4ED
Tel: 0191 2952280

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to provide you with some additional information around our decision to partially close from today.

The advice and guidance from government is constantly being updated and two new documents have been produced relating to the closure of schools, one for parents and carers and one for schools. The links to both documents are provided below.

The guidance for schools states: '*... 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.'

The guidance for parents' states: '*Special schools, colleges and local authorities are advised to make case by case basis assessments of the health and safeguarding considerations of pupils and students on an education, health and care (EHC) plan. For some, they will be safer in an education provision. For others, they will be safer at home. We trust leaders and parents to make these decisions and will support them as required.'*

In both documents the guidance is clear that where it is safe to do so children and young people should stay at home.

We are providing places in school for those children and young people whose parents are key workers and are unable to make alternative childcare arrangements and for those young people whose additional needs mean that it would be in their best interests to attend school for at least part of the time.

We are making these decisions in consultation with parents, carers, social workers and health professionals.

We are also mindful of the government advice on social distancing and the need to avoid large social groupings. We are also aware of the number of staff who will be affected by the virus and will therefore be unable to come into school. At all times our greatest priority is the safety and wellbeing of your child.

We will contact you directly on an individual basis to discuss the options for your child to access provision within school over the coming weeks.

We will also stay in touch with you on a regular basis through phone calls, e-mails and texts and will regularly update the information and activities on the school website.

This is a very strange and difficult time for everyone. We want to continue to support our students and their families and hope you will work with us to put the best provision in place that we can at the current time for your child and all the others in our school.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hamilton

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>