

# DOUBLETREES SCHOOL

A member of the Special Partnership Trust



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware schools are being asked to provide child care to ensure that essential workers (listed on the key worker document attached) can continue to work. We are also being asked to provide as much support as possible for pupils who attend this school. We are going to be working hard to do this and want to build a model as sustainable and safe as possible for the foreseeable future. However, we will be operating on a skeleton staffing due to illness and vulnerabilities related to this pandemic.

Many of you have already decided that it is safer for your child to be at home during this period where social isolation and distancing, especially for the medically vulnerable is being strongly advised. We understand and fully support this decision.

I am now contacting you to find out how many people are asking us to provide help with child care needs – and to see how best we can support? **Our first priority (Phase 1) will be to provide child care for key workers** – we will try and widen this offer after Easter as our staffing levels allow. The Government guidance has asked us to provide key worker support to enable you to attend work when you have no other child care option available to you. This is not an automatic Monday to Friday offer – it will be based on individual key worker working days and hours.

The next phase (**Phase 2**) of our offer will include those learners who we risk assess as high priority based on our safeguarding category of 'vulnerable'. More information will be provided on this, next week. I understand that the communication about the role of special schools at this time has been inconsistent from the Government but please be assured that **our** intention is to provide as much clear information as we can. Our models will depend on our staffing levels moving forwards.

We are not currently in a position to offer on-site provision to all pupils with EHCPs. It is necessary that we build a model based on risk assessment, safeguarding and the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

If you do not choose to access child care on site, we will remain in contact with you. Teachers will contact you at least weekly and work activities will be sent home.

Please complete the attached to assist us with our planning.

Yours sincerely

Heidi Hoskin  
Headteacher