



Giffard Park Primary School

Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park

Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY

Tel: 01908 617868

Headteacher: Miss E Donoghue B Ed (Hons)

Email: office@giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

Update on Key Workers

Dear Parents/Carers,

In light of the Government's closure of schools, I am writing to give you further clarity of what this means. At the end of the school day today, Friday 20th March 2020, Giffard Park Primary will be closed to **most** pupils. Teachers and support staff are frontline staff and so we will still be open and all working as directed to support children of **key workers** and vulnerable children.

How long our school will be closed for is uncertain, yet it may be for some time and we will be ready and prepared to manage this and of course to have a huge welcome back when we get through this, and we will get through this!

We have finally **received the full detailed list from the government regarding key worker roles and further guidance for schools**. A link to the document 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>

Please also see the following document for Frequently asked questions:

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

I have also added the **full guidance for both documents** at the end of this letter for your convenience.

Please could you make contact with us by **12.00pm lunchtime today** via our dedicated inbox –

school@giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk with the subject 'Key Worker', to notify us if you are a family working in the following sectors:

Tier 1 (in no particular order)	Tier 2 (in no particular order)	Tier 3 (in no particular order)	Tier 4 (in no particular order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doctors ▪ Nurses ▪ Midwives ▪ Paramedics ▪ Social Workers ▪ Care workers ▪ Machine workers producing medicines / medical personal protective equipment ▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <u>categorically cannot</u> work from home ▪ Nursery staff ▪ Teaching staff ▪ School staff and school catering staff who must remain active during the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health & social care supply chain workers ▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <u>could</u> work from home ▪ Food sale ▪ Those involved in the production, distribution, sale and delivery of hygienic or veterinary medicines ▪ Oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewerage) workers ▪ Waste disposal sector workers ▪ National Crime Agency staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those running the justice system ▪ Air, water and road workers ▪ Freight transport workers operating through COVID-19 responses ▪ Telecommunications including call centre staff for 999 and 111 critical services) ▪ Specialist education professionals who aren't school based ▪ Civil nuclear and chemical workers ▪ Network operation and field engineering workers ▪ Payment providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religious staff ▪ Journalists providing public service broadcasting ▪ Broadcasters providing public service broadcasting ▪ Local and national government administrators delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arms-length bodies. ▪ Rail passenger workers ▪ Essential financial services provision (including but not limited to banks, building societies, financial market infrastructure) ▪ Information technology and data infrastructure sector and



<p>COVID-19 to deliver this approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social workers ▪ Food distributors ▪ Food processors ▪ Food delivery drivers ▪ Police and support staff ▪ Ministry of Defence civilians ▪ Contractor and armed forces personnel who are 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) <p>Workers responsible for the management of the deceased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Border security ▪ Prison and probation staff <p>Other national security roles including those overseas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Charity workers providing support and relief in relation to COVID-19 	<p>primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response</p> <p>Postal services and delivery workers</p>
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If you do not have access to email then please phone the school office on 01908 617868.

We are also open for the following children:

- Those on an Educational Health Care Plan (please note it does not include all SEN children or those waiting for EHCP assessment)
- Those who are in care or looked after by foster carers
- Children with a Social Worker

Please include your child/ren's name and year group in your email so that we are clear which children are affected by yesterday's announcement.

On receipt of the relevant information, I will write to those parents identified as **Key Workers** to confirm the arrangements for the children who will attend school on Monday 23rd March 2020.

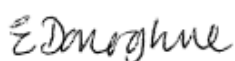
We are also waiting for clarification on how to support families of children in receipt of free school meals due to income thresholds and how they can get provision for meals and/or meal vouchers at this time.

All of the year group teams have planned tasks for children to complete at home and these will be sent out via parent mail in the coming days. Year 6 have already taken home paper copies of their home learning packs. These will be updated regularly for as long as we are closed.

As a reminder, however, should these children who are still in school develop new, persistent cough and/or a high temperature then the 14 day self-isolation rule will still apply.

Thank you to all of you for your understanding and support at this time. I am incredibly proud of the staff team here who, alongside me, are still coming to work, caring for key children, providing and updating resources for your children at home whilst also being mindful that we have families of our own to support too.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Donoghue
Headteacher



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Guidance

Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers

Published 19 March 2020

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

Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). This will be updated as we have further information available.

1. Closures of schools, childcare and other educational settings

1.1 What age groups does this cover?

The changes cover children at registered childcare providers (including nurseries and childminders), primary and secondary schools and further education colleges. This is for both state-funded and independent schools.

1.2 Will it be mandatory for all schools, colleges and registered childcare providers to remain open in some form?

We are asking schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders and other registered childcare settings to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children where they can.

We understand that some may be unable to do so especially if they are experiencing severe staff shortages. We will work with local areas to use neighbouring schools, colleges and childcare providers to continue to support vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

1.3 How long will schools and colleges be closed for?

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, schools, colleges and childcare providers will be closed to the majority of pupils until further notice.

1.4 Will this apply to independent schools and boarding schools?

Yes. We are asking independent schools and boarding schools to do the same as state schools and remain open for critical workers and vulnerable children.

1.5 Will registered childcare providers, schools and colleges be open over Easter holidays for holiday clubs and childcare?

Where possible, we would encourage childcare providers, schools and colleges to continue to look after critical workers' children and vulnerable children throughout the Easter holidays.

1.6 I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child - can you guarantee that my child will attend their usual school or childcare provider?



We are expecting the majority of settings to stay open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children so they can continue to attend their usual provider, but we acknowledge this will be impossible for some - such as small rural schools.

Where a setting is unable to stay open, we will work with the local educational authority, regional school commissioners and neighbouring providers to find an alternative setting for their pupils.

1.7 I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child - how will my child get to school if the only school open is not nearby?

We are working closely with local authorities to ensure that children can attend the best setting for them, and will provide transport arrangements to support them.

1.8 I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child but I don't want to send my child in to school or childcare, do I have to?

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

1.9 Does this affect universities and other higher education institutions?

Universities and other higher education providers should make their own judgements based on latest Public Health England guidance. Vice chancellors are well placed to make decisions about their own institution, and many have already moved all their teaching online. The government is supporting them with these decisions. Advice continues to be that all student accommodation should remain open unless advised otherwise by Public Health England. Many universities provide homes to international students, estranged students and care leavers who might not have anywhere else to go.

The Department is working with the Home Office to avoid individuals and institutions being penalised if online provision inadvertently leads to [non-compliance with Tier 4 visa rules](#).

1.10 Does this apply to special schools?

We recognise that children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and their parents and carers are facing numerous challenges as a result of coronavirus. We are encouraging local authorities to keep open both residential special schools and residential specialist colleges wherever possible. In addition, we want to keep the majority of day special schools and colleges open, including moving staff into these settings to avoid closure.

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.

1.11 Why is my nursery telling me that they will continue to charge me during corona virus-related closures?

The government acknowledges that in many cases, the insurance that early years providers have will not cover them for income lost during COVID-19-related closures.

That is one of the reasons why it announced on 17 March that government would not claw back early years entitlements funding from local authorities during closures, or where children are withdrawn because of COVID-19. This protects a significant proportion of early years providers' income.

In addition, the government has set out a range of support for businesses to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on them. This includes a business rate holiday for all private childcare providers for one year from 1 April. Local authorities will be fully compensated for the cost of this.

In light of these steps taken already, we are asking providers to be reasonable and balanced in their dealings with parents. The government is urgently keeping what further support businesses may require under close review.

3. Vulnerable children

3.1 Is my child counted as vulnerable?



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Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. We will work with schools, early years, FE providers and local authorities to help identify the children who most need support at this time.

We know that schools will also want to look to support other children who are vulnerable where they are able to do so.

3.2 What will happen with free school meals for those not in school and colleges?

We know that free school meals are important for many families.

To make sure eligible children can continue to be supported, we will give schools and colleges the flexibility to provide meals or vouchers to children eligible for free school meals. They will be reimbursed by the Department. As soon as possible, we will put in place a national voucher system.

More information on [support for pupils eligible for school meals](#) is available.

4. Critical workers

4.1 Will I be counted as a critical worker?

Critical workers include NHS staff, police, farmers and food retail workers, who need to be able to go out to work.

In order to continue to offer critical services as part of the country's ongoing response to the virus, children of workers who form a central part of effort - such as NHS workers, police and delivery drivers - will also continue to attend school, college or childcare provider.

A full list of critical workers and further information is available.

4.2 If only one parent or carer is a critical worker, can I send my children in to school?

Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required.



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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, 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.

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 include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support head teachers to do so.

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 below. 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.

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

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

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



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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 for the continuation of this essential public service.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

