

Key Workers

As you are aware the government released a list of key workers who should be able to access childcare.

I am listing the definition of these roles here but I really need to emphasise some of the key points in the document:

The following key principles apply:

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.

It is really important that parents really consider whether they need the childcare available. Just because you are able to access this provision doesn't mean you should if it is at all possible for your children to remain at home and comply with social distancing.

This week we have had about 15 staff who could not attend to school either through their own vulnerabilities (these people will not be able to return to school in the near future), because they have flu-like symptoms or they have someone living at home with flu-like symptoms. Next week, we will have less staff available as they live with others who have health vulnerabilities and need to socially distance themselves. We will inevitably have other absences over the coming weeks as we are having to be very cautious about possible symptoms which may result in 7 day absences every time.

Some of our staff are also making alternative arrangements for their own children when they are in school so that they can distance their children if at all possible.

We would greatly appreciate your support by only using the childcare service if it is absolutely necessary and, in these cases, of course we will do our best to support you and your family.

The list of key workers is:

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

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.

Please complete the form sent out yesterday via email – copies are in the school office if you **NEED** childcare support and are one of the defined key workers. We may ask for evidence of shifts if necessary.

As soon as we have a definitive list we will get back to you today with further details about the arrangements we are putting in place.

Please be aware that if we are not able to staff safely, we may need to prioritise certain key workers.