

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

Update in response to COVID-19 virus – opportunity for children of critical workers and vulnerable children to attend childcare provision at Grange Park

Further to my previous correspondences, below are some further guidelines of this.

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. The government has advised that schools 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.

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. In order to continue to offer critical services as part of the country's ongoing response to the virus, children of workers form a central part of effort. 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 you are a parent of a child who is a critical worker, then please complete this form (if you have already completed the form you do not have to send the form again).
3. If you have a vulnerable child, SLT will contact you directly.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Please see the guidance below which lists the critical sectors:

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.

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

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

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

Please complete the form sent yesterday **today (Friday 20 March) at 2pm** if you are a critical worker and require childcare, as your child cannot be safely cared for at home. Please complete a separate form for each child. If you have already completed a form, you do not have to complete again. We will email you confirmation that you have been offered a place later on today.

If you are a critical worker or have a vulnerable child and you haven't taken up the opportunity for this childcare at this time, should you need a space please email your request directly to the school office.

We are unsure at the moment whether we are able to offer this childcare to critical workers children or vulnerable children during the Easter holidays. However, we will inform you once we do.

We intend to open Grange Park Primary from 9am to 3pm each day. We will carry on unless we are experiencing severe staff shortages.

We are committed as a school to support parents which are critical to the COVID-19 response and other children facing social difficulties as this is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease. I am grateful for the staff who are going to continue to provide this childcare, as you can imagine it is an uncertain and worrying time for everyone, they have been admirable.

Please see this link for some advice on mental health and well being:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1960/coronavirus-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>

Do all look after yourselves and your family during this difficult period.

Kind regards

Tijen Hassan **Headteacher**