



Friday 20 March

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 update

Request for provision of care during St Katherine's School Closure Vulnerable children and children of key workers

Following the national announcement about school closures, we are planning to support the government's strategy to allow provision of care for vulnerable children and children of key workers during school hours. The guidance from the government states:

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.

From Monday 23 March, we will be able to provide care for the following:

- Vulnerable children, such as those who have an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) or children who have some involvement with social care.
- Children who do not have care at home because one or more parents are a key worker. The list from the government at this stage includes:
 - National Health Staff
 - Armed forces
 - Teachers and childcare staff
 - Care home workers
 - Social workers
 - Police officers, community support, civilian staff
 - Prison officer or other probation staff
 - Firefighters
 - Local authority planners
 - Environmental health officers
 - Highway Agency traffic officers
 - Supermarket/food supply delivery drivers
 - Or if your work is critical to the Covid-19 response

We ask that parents make appropriate requests for whether they need to send their children into school. We anticipate operating on a rotation of skeleton staff with safeguarding our priority. The provision will be during school hours from 8:00 - 4:00pm, including breakfast and lunch, primarily to provide safe care. We will be catering for a range of ages, providing learning opportunities following our home learning model on Google Classroom.

This is subject to change should staff become ill or have to self-isolate. As the needs and staffing capacity become clearer, this may evolve to include collaboration across other local schools.

Please complete the form following using the link below if your child/children fit into any one of the categories above and you would like St Katherine's to provide care. Please fill in a form for each child; for safeguarding reasons we wish to establish a clear register of who to expect on Monday 23 March.

Link to Google Form: <https://forms.gle/zQWJc9a5TvkVuFMs9>

If you have specific questions or concerns, please continue to direct them to Mrs Crocker (Designated Safeguarding Lead; crockerk@skdrive.org).

Take care and best wishes



Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

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