



# Five Ways Primary School

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

8.30am

Dear Parents,

## Re: COVID-19 Update – Further information regarding key worker parents

Late last night, I received an official list from the government stating who would be categorised as a 'key worker'. As I need to plan swiftly for next week, it is vital that I have approximate numbers to see how I will be able to staff this.

Parents from the following critical sectors of employment are classed as 'key workers'. **The list has been separated into eight categories:**

### Health and social care

Includes frontline health and social care staff - such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition, those working in supply chains, including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.

### Education and childcare

Includes nursery, teaching staff and social workers, as the department said these workers are required to deliver their plans.

### Key public services

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

### Local and national government

The sector "only includes administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services", including payment of benefits.

### Food and other necessary goods

Includes those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food.

### Public safety and national security

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, along with fire and rescue staff, as well as those responsible for border security, prison and probation staff.

### Transport

Includes those who will keep "air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response".



## **Utilities, communication and financial services**

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running, along with those in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and working to provide essential financial services provision are also included.

### **Please read the following carefully:**

The government guidelines state that '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 above. **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:

**If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. It is felt that 'THE SAFEST PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD IS AT HOME'. The government have stated that '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. 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.'**

Therefore, I ask that families **who meet the criteria below and require us to look after your child/ren next week – but only if it is absolutely necessary**, contact school via email at [keyworkers@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:keyworkers@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk) if:

- **Both** parents/carers are key workers as defined by the list above
- The parent/carer of a single parent/carer family is a key worker as defined by the list above.

**If you are a key worker family but arranging your own childcare and not sending your child to school, please do not contact the school.**

If you have already emailed school to state you are a key worker parent, then I will contact you via the email address you have provided if I require more information to ensure your family meets the strict criteria being used as stated above.

**I will reply to all parents directly via email to confirm if we can or cannot accommodate your child/ren in school next week, dependent upon the strict criteria listed above. Please DO NOT assume your child/ren is able to attend school next week unless you receive a confirmation email stating this fact addressed from Mrs Mander.**

**If you have not already contacted school stating that you are a key worker and you think your family meets the criteria listed above, please email**

**[keyworkers@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:keyworkers@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk) and provide me with the following information in your email:**



Name of Parent 1:  
Name of Parent 2:  
Name of Pupil/s:  
Registration Teacher/s:  
Parent 1 Key Worker Position:  
Parent 2 Key Worker Position:  
Best contact details:

*(We will retain this information securely in accordance with GDPR so that we can make plans accordingly.)*

I would ask that families who have not already emailed us stating they will be sending their child/ren to school next week because they meet the strict criteria listed, do so **by 3.00pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** at the latest, as I will need the majority of Sunday to make arrangements for next week. However, I do feel that I have to give advance notice of the fact, that if our staffing levels are too low to accommodate the children of parents who have requested a school place, the Local Authority will work with the Department of Education to ensure an alternative option is available. Obviously, I do not want our school community to be placed in this position, so please follow the guidelines listed above very carefully before contacting school and requesting a place for your child/ren.

Once again, I apologise for the inconvenience that school closure on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March has caused. I would also like to apologise for the need to operate very strict criteria when allocating pupils a place at school from next week. As you can appreciate, staff shortages due to self-isolation and underlying medical needs still mean that as a school, we will be operating under very challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander  
Headteacher

