

Thursday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

PROVISION FOR KEY WORKERS FROM MONDAY, 23rd MARCH 2020

Last night, the Government published guidance for maintaining education settings, giving information about the definition of key workers. The principle is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Please note however, in order to best protect both children and staff during this crisis, we will be asking that childcare is requested only where there is a 'need'. The guidance states that having one 'critical worker' in the household may qualify your child for this provision, we would expect that if there is a non-critical worker in the home capable of basic childcare during the day that **if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

Key workers:

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.

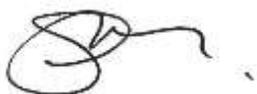
We will, of course, keep you updated but to help our planning, please can we ask that if you wish to make use of this service, you attend Folkestone Academy on **Friday 20th March after 4pm, on Saturday 21st March between 9 and 11am and Monday 23rd March before 10am** to complete a form for us to identify whether you are a key worker, as defined by the Government. You will also need to bring with you a form of 'work' ID. You may also complete the form online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LK4Qg0-qXp72Y6RQqu30_a7Q_DcsvfNJPFWuTEpvq84/viewform?edit_requested=true

Initially, we will only be able to offer limited spaces so this will mean prioritising those parents who only have key workers in their families. As more staff return to work in the longer term, we will be able to offer more places. The Secretary of State for Education has also asked that schools remain open in some capacity during the Easter break for these children so that designated key workers can continue to fulfil their roles. We will give details of this provision to those families over the next few days.

We will be doing everything possible to help minimise the disruption to learning for all our pupils. For those not coming into school, we will ensure that learning can continue and will be providing details on this shortly. This work and your child's progress will be monitored regularly by staff members from the school. These are unprecedented and challenging times but we are committed to your child's education through remote learning and through caring for those who will continue to attend school. We appreciate this is a very difficult and worrying time for everyone, and we appreciate your support and patience as we work through all the details.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer (Designate).