

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Overnight, the government released further guidance to schools to help us to identify frontline staff. The message is clear: **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** The Government have asked for parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**, and have asked schools to stay open for those children who absolutely NEED to attend. **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.** To view the guidance in full, please visit: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR2GTZ7IMEI-3GA-5YpoB236dWOntg4AFsbjVjanLo\\_mD\\_oJ2iiouo8yOWk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR2GTZ7IMEI-3GA-5YpoB236dWOntg4AFsbjVjanLo_mD_oJ2iiouo8yOWk)

It is clear that, where possible, children should not be attending school. Where there is an adult available to look after your children at home then children should stay at home. (Elderly or vulnerable adults who are staying at home in response to government advice should not be asked to look after children). In circumstances where keeping a child at home would prevent a key worker from attending work then the child may be sent to school. This might vary day to day because of the key worker's work pattern.

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 in everybody's best interests to ensure that all children and adults remain safe and that social distancing and self-isolation guidance is followed stringently. However, all schools also recognise the importance of ensuring that our key workers are still able to go to work and to fight the good fight against the virus. The list of key workers has been extended and is as follows:

**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, having read this updated advice **you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with school that** you are a key worker and know that you have no other option in terms of childcare and **your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.** Please contact us via: [admin@st-josephs-pickering.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephs-pickering.n-yorks.sch.uk) to inform us if you need your child to attend school from Monday. In your reply, I ask that you write a couple of sentences about the title and nature of the jobs you hold.

Children with an EHCP ( Educational Health Care Plan) are also allowed to attend school, if the parents so wish. We would ask that the parents whose children have an EHCP contact school also, to let us know if the children will be attending school.

Once I have a confirmed register for school on Monday, I will be in touch with those parents to provide further details. Due to the instructions placed upon school and the need for children not to be in school unless absolutely vital, I have a duty to check all requests made and may have to make some unpopular decisions. In a very small number of circumstances, I may also have to speak with current employers to ascertain exact roles.

Please also be aware that due to us having staff who are self-isolating, your child will not necessarily be taught by their *usual* members of staff.

Please continue to take care and do everything that you can to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

With thanks for your continued support

Mr Eddy