

Dear Parents

Key Worker Parents – Boarding Students

We wrote to you before Easter as you identified as being a Key Worker and therefore your son or daughter is eligible to attend school during this school closure period. Thank you to those of you who have chosen to keep your son or daughter at home with you and have truly supported social distancing and lock down. As term restarts on Monday 20th April we need to ensure we have appropriately staffed the school site for those students who will be with us on site. If you are unsure if your situation meets the eligibility, I have included it below for you:-

Department of Education Guidance

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. 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 must be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must 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.*

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

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 childcare, support 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.

Keeping us informed

Please can I ask you to contact Mrs Pitman to confirm the following:-

1. You will be maintaining social distancing and lock down until the Government changes policy on this and will be keeping your son or daughter at home
2. You are a Key Worker and wish for your son or daughter to attend school and the dates they will be attending between Monday 20th April and Friday 22nd May. Please can you provide us with a copy of your ID as confirmation that you meet the criteria set out by the Government as a Key Worker.

In order to keep all members of our school community safe, if you are requesting that your son or daughter returns to Boarding we will send you a return to Boarding Form which we will need completing prior to your son or daughter returning to the Boarding Community. Boarders that are returning may do so from 6pm on Sunday 19th April, subject to the form being received and you receiving confirmation they may return.

Due to the need for lockdown and to support social distancing and travel only being for essential purposes, we would not support students entering Boarding during the week but returning home each weekend due to the increased risk this would pose to them and the school community. Boarders may return home at half term but we would ask that the family uphold the Government policy around lockdown and social distancing during this week, should it remain in place.

Please can I make you aware that in line with Government advice if your son or daughter presents with Symptoms of COVID-19 and we are unable to self-isolate them, we will need you to collect them and return them home for the duration of their illness and recovery period in line with Government strategy. It is therefore key you have arrangements in place should your son or daughter become unwell and need collecting.

Please can you ensure that we receive replies by 2pm on Thursday 16th April to enable us to plan appropriately for the week ahead.

Obviously if the Governments lockdown policy changes and schools are granted permission to reopen I will write to you setting out how and when Sexey's School will reopen and return to providing boarding and education onsite for all students. I know that we are all hoping that this happens before the summer starts.

I hope that you and family are all staying safe and well at this challenging time.



Kind regards

Helen
Mrs H Cullen
Headteacher

