



Friday 20th March, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now been issued with guidance relating to which pupils fall into the “vulnerable” and “key worker” groups as defined by the government.

We will be providing a provision in school for these pupils but it is crucial that where pupils can remain at home safely, they should. The purpose of closing schools is to support “social distancing” and the most recent advice is for people to stay at home in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Schools are being asked to provide provision and remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend school.

The government are clear in that their objective is to have a very small minority of pupils attending school as 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.

So please, regardless of whether or not your child falls in to either the “vulnerable” or “key worker” category, where you can, safely, keep pupils at home. The government have issued guiding principles for parents to adhere to;

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

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

Information relating to social distancing can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Information for parents of children defined in the “vulnerable” or “key worker” groups can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

School will be directly contacting the parents of pupils who would be defined as “vulnerable” this morning to discuss provision for next week.

The government have also issued key guidance identifying who would be categorised as a “key worker” and the occupation categories that would be included are;

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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





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,

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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.

Based on this information could we therefore ask all parents, who haven't done so already, to email the school using the email address keyworkers@penkethhigh.org if you feel your occupation would qualify in the "keyworker" category. If you have emailed and previously indicated that your child would be accessing school but you have now changed your mind following the government guidance and their pleas to keep pupils at home where this can be done safely; please also email us for us to amend the information. We would need to know:

Name of your child:

Form group or year group:

Your name:

Relationship to the child:

Your occupation:

Your employer:

Do you intend to send your child to school?

Obviously, with the little time we have before school closes on Friday, I'm sure you can appreciate the need for us to identify those potentially impacted by the changes to provision after next week. It is essential for us to have this information so that we can plan effectively for the week ahead in what are very unusual circumstances. I sent an update out last night explaining what our provision for pupils would look like for those in school and those continuing to engage in learning from home.

I know it's a big ask for a quick turnaround for this information but ideally we need this information as soon as possible, and preferably by 12:30pm. Can I thank you in advance for sending replies and for your ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

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