

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware that the Government has requested that the Academy remains open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

What is a vulnerable child?

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.

What is a critical worker?

Critical workers include NHS staff, police, farmers and food retail workers, who need to be able to go out to work. The updated guidance states that children with at least one parent or carer who is identified as a critical worker by the Government can send their children to school if required – this is a change from yesterday's guidance

A full list of critical workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Please note: every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, **then they should 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;
3. 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;
4. 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.

Children who receive free school meals

In-line with Government advice we have purchased e-vouchers from Tesco that we will email to any parents / carer of students who are eligible for free school meals. If you do not have access to an email account, we will ensure that the vouchers can be collected directly from the Academy. More information will follow in due course.

What do you need to do now?

If your job role falls under the category of *Critical Worker* as defined by the Government and you wish your child to be supervised in the Academy. Please email Mr Dovey (Deputy Head of Academy) on dovey.j@bournville.bham.sch.uk by **5pm on Friday 20th March** with the following information:

1. The name and year group of your child / children;
2. Your name;
3. Your role as a critical worker;
4. Your employer;
5. Your employer contact details and Line Manager contact details.

You will then be contacted by email to confirm that you can send your child into the Academy on Monday 23rd March whereby further details will also be provided.

What will we be doing now?

We will be calling the parents / carers of vulnerable children **today** to establish if you wish your child / children to be supervised by the Academy. Further details will be provided at this point.

As ever, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Miss M Green
Head of Academy