



Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you as Head Teachers of the Central Collaborative group of schools, of which your child / children's school is a member.

Following the latest Government announcement regarding Covid19 we wish to stress the important messages and guidance which have been made clear by the Government in response to the current escalating situation and, in particular, the impact on school provision.

The default position is that in order to adhere to Government instructions, all Central Collaborative schools are partially closed with immediate effect and until further notice.

On **Tuesday 5th January**, School will be open **only** for those children who previously met the criteria detailed in the Appendix to this letter or for children who now meet the criteria. Your school may ask for proof of employment if you request a place under this criteria. **These places will be reviewed again this week to ensure they are being accessed appropriately.** Your school will inform you as to the procedure for applying for a place under the critical worker / vulnerable pupil criteria or will confirm your place with you.

For all other children, your school will be providing a remote learning offer which matches the current curriculum for their year group and your children's progress through their work will be monitored and checked by their teachers. Given that this announcement and action has come into effect so quickly and with limited notice, further details will be provided by each individual school as soon as possible. Staff from each of the schools will also be checking on the pupils' wellbeing and providing pastoral support where required.

To be clear, all our schools and Head Teachers want to support the critical workers and children deemed vulnerable at this crucial time and recognise the role they have to play in doing this. However, we also want to reiterate our message from the previous national lockdown period - **if a child can stay safely at home, then they should be at home**. Sending your child in to school otherwise, places them and all our schools' staff at increased risk. Ultimately, the safety of children and staff has to be the priority for all our Head Teachers.

Children in Care / with an EHCP

As previously, each of our schools will undertake a risk assessment and consider these children on a case by case basis. Essentially, Head Teachers will decide, in consultation with parents and carers, whether a child is safest at home or in school? Please respect the judgement of your Head Teacher as they will make their recommendation based on the most up to date government guidance and their knowledge of your child. **Many children with EHCP plans can safely remain at home.**



Children of Key Workers

There is no automatic entitlement to a child care place in school. Please consider if your role is critical to the Covid-19 response. All critical workers will be considered for a place, **as long as their job cannot be done from home.** Even if you are a key worker yourself, please ask whether you have **ANY** other alternative childcare options. Is there is a second parent / carer who is NOT a critical worker who can take the child care responsibilities? Are there any other family members who are not elderly? Are there older siblings who **could** take some responsibility for care some of the time? Sending your child to school should be an **absolute last resort; every child who can safely be cared for at home should be** if we are to tackle the spread of this virus together once again.

Should numbers in our schools be too high and Head Teachers believe that both children and staff are at increased risk because of this, then **all Head Teachers** will introduce a 'tiered' system for allocating places. All places will then be reviewed and considered in the light of each family's particular circumstance / job roles etc. Some places may need to be withdrawn at that point.

Conclusion

As we have throughout this pandemic, all schools in our Collaborative are committed to supporting our families and children during these difficult times. We are in a much stronger position to be able to support your children remotely in both their learning and their personal development needs.

We are asking that you all work with us and pay close attention to government guidelines to keep you, your children and our staff as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support

Yours Sincerely

Head Teacher

Roby Park

St Margaret Mary's Juniors

St Margaret Mary's Infants

Stockbridge Village Primary

Lord Derby Academy

Malvern

Blacklow Brow

St Anne's

St Aidan's

Hope

St Columba's

Sylvester

Park View

Knowsley Lane

St Aloysius

St Brigid's

Huyton with Roby

Willow Tree

St Joseph's

Alt Bridge

Meadow Park



Central

St Albert's

Vulnerable children and young people: from guidance issued on 31.12.20

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

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
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors