



THE POCHIN SCHOOL
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20th March 2020

RE: Coronavirus Update: School closure and access for Key Workers

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you know all schools in England will close today and will only be open from Monday 23rd March for Key Workers.

As a school we are absolutely committed to 'doing our bit' and supporting the country at this extremely challenging time. Outlined in this letter is the approach our school, as part of the Bradgate Education Partnership, will try to deliver critical care and support to eligible pupils from Monday.

Please note we will not be operating as a 'school' and will not be providing a fully educational curriculum – we will, of course, be exercising a common sense approach and will try to ensure children are safe and engaged in age-appropriate activities

Who are eligible as Key Workers?

We consider the following to be eligible Key Workers (See final page):

Principles we will ask you to follow:

- **If at all possible, including children of Key Workers, children should be kept at home for social distancing.**
 - Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing in a way which can continue to spread the virus.
 - Everyone should continue to follow Public Health England guidelines and only send pupils into school if they are healthy, they do not need to self-isolate and have not been with anyone presenting with any symptoms.
 - Please keep us informed of any self-isolation or cases of Covid-19 within the family or via any direct contact.
 - **Only use the service if absolutely required** – for example we would ask part-time key workers not to use the service on days when they are not working.
1. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational school provision will be available for them, **if absolutely needed**.
 2. We are completely committed to keeping this service open as long as possible

Principles we will be following if we have capacity issues with our staffing:

We will be applying the following guidelines to ensure we have workforce for as long as possible. We want to ensure we retain capacity and a healthy workforce in place for the predicted spike in frontline pressures predicted in the coming weeks. If required and needed to, we will give priority in the following order:

- Pupils where either parent is a member of frontline NHS staff – e.g. doctors & nurses
- Pupils who have a Social Worker or who are identified as being extremely vulnerable
- Pupils where both parents (or one parent for single parent families) are on the Key Worker list
- Pupils where one parent is on the Key Worker list

Eligible as a Key Worker(s)?

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, 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.

Further Information:

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.

If your school is closed then please contact your local authority, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

Warm regards

Mrs Heather Sharpe