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Ocean Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Principal : Mrs J Quarrie

Dear Parents and Carers

20 March 2020

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. This is really important for the safety of your child, the other children in school and school staff.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children **who absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care **for a limited number of children** - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response **and cannot be safely cared for at home**.

Parents whose work **is critical to the COVID-19 response** will be considered as key workers.

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 key worker, then educational provision will be available for them **IF** this is the only options parents have.
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

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. This list has been updated since last night:

- Police
- Fire fighters
- Supermarket delivery drivers
- School staff
- Supermarket workers
- Pharmacy workers
- Armed Forces
- Care workers
- Those essential to running the justice system
- Religious staff
- Funeral directors
- Local and national government whose work directly links to COVID-19
- Rail passenger and freight transport modes operators
- Financial workers whose work directly links to the COVID-19 response
- NHS staff

Please let school staff know today, with supporting evidence that you fall within one of these categories and that you have no other form of childcare for you child. A list of final details for next week will be sent out today, so please do not request further information until you receive this information. We ask that you still do try to find alternative arrangements when you can, on the days that you can.

Kindest regards

J. Quarrie

Mrs J Quarrie
Principal

