



Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery
Sheffield Road, Wymondham, NR18 OHL
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Telephone: 01953 602410
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Childcare provision for keyworkers' children and vulnerable children

As you are aware, the school will close at the end of today as directed by the UK government. We have been asked to provide childcare for the children of keyworkers and for vulnerable children. We have only just received the guidance from government about their definition of 'key worker'.

The purpose of school closures is to aid social distancing to reduce the spread of the virus. For this reason, it is important that we only open to children who need the care to allow key services to continue to function and those deemed vulnerable. **Only children who have received a direct invitation to attend school on Monday will be allowed to attend.** Any children in that group who were already self-isolating will have to complete their isolation period.

We will email families once we receive responses from those who self-identify as a key worker and when we have been informed by the Local Authority who is deemed vulnerable. Our current understanding of vulnerable is those with EHCPs or with an assigned Social Worker.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And 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;
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.





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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:

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 arm's 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,





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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.

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.

We will try to provide care from Monday, but in some cases, as we wait for guidance on eligibility, the care may not be offered immediately. If that is the case, we will send further invitations out to families who may be eligible later next week and further extend our provision.

If numbers are too high then we may need to ascertain if there is more than one key worker in the family to prioritise places.

If you are currently not a key worker but that changes in the future (e.g. you are a qualified nurse who is currently not contracted to work in the NHS but choose to return to help) then please contact us when that change takes place and we will add your child/children at that stage.

If you feel you are eligible for this emergency childcare for keyworkers please complete the form via <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2yI6szjOFEG9p4ypq1t99TGoNlvJXx1KqgNXJqFQKrlUQ0IyWIIJWjZKQUhSRExNNzRIVFRUMjU0Ty4u> **by 2pm today.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding and we will endeavour to have provision in place as quickly as possible.

Kind regards

Mr Sam Nixon
Headteacher

