



# The Federation of St Bede's & St Bernadette Catholic Schools

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21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

Following the **closure of all schools in England on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020**, to help combat the spread of COVID-19, the Government has asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely need to attend**.

Schools are 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.

In response to the publication by the Government of the 'Key Worker' roles received this morning and on review of your parent questionnaires sent out yesterday, I will be contacting you regarding your eligibility for educational provision in the weeks ahead until we reopen.

We have already contacted parents of vulnerable children and now we are able to provide details on what a 'Key Worker' is defined as. 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 in the list on the next page of this letter. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home.

**Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

If you are considered eligible for this provision, I will contact you as soon as is practically possible to provide you with the arrangements for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March onward. I appreciate that the timescales on this matter are incredibly tight, and I thank you for your understanding on how we are dealing with these arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support in these difficult and unprecedented times

Yours sincerely

Ewa Ostrynska  
Federation Headteacher

## **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.

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.