



**BRADGATE**  
Education Partnership

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**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 tomorrow for children of Key Workers or for those children who meet the criteria as 'Vulnerable'.

As a Trust we are absolutely committed to providing as many children with a high quality educational offer as possible, and despite the challenges we face we feel we are in a much better place to provide high quality remote learning than during the previous lockdown. We are obviously also keen to support the overall effort against the pandemic by providing critical places at school for Key Workers. Outlined in this letter is the approach our schools, as part of the Bradgate Education Partnership, will take in order to try to deliver critical care and support for eligible pupils from tomorrow.

Please note that although we will not be operating as a 'school' during this lockdown we will be expecting all of our staff to be on-site and providing high quality remote learning on a daily basis and to provide face-to-face education to children of critical Key Workers and those children who are deemed to be vulnerable. Therefore, we are going to be very stretched and will be seeking your ongoing support to ensure we are able to meet the dual challenge of providing both face-to-face school for some pupils and a genuinely high quality remote education for others.

We are therefore requesting that only those children of Key Workers who genuinely and urgently need to use the face-to-face provision take up this provision. Our estimates demonstrate that if all eligible families use the facility we may have classes of around 20 pupils, with some schools at 60-70% capacity. Clearly this will negate the drive to reduce transmission and numbers mixing in schools and will almost certainly reduce our ability and capacity to offer a high quality offer remotely.

We know that this is a very difficult and sensitive matter and the last thing we want to do is start to 'police' this or start to scrutinise our families, asking invasive questions about the roles you fulfil or being forced to apply a hierarchy to reduce numbers. Therefore, we are seeking your support and assistance in ensuring we can look after all of our children as fairly and equitably as possible.

We will monitor closely the numbers attending school over the coming days and we will also collect numbers for those requesting a place for next week. Hopefully numbers will find a sensible balance and we will be able to meet the needs of all of our pupils.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours,

Dean Pomeroy  
Director of Schools

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### **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 needed**.
  2. We are completely committed to keeping this service open as long as possible

### **Principles we may be forced to follow 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)?**

#### **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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

#### **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