



20 March 2020

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Overnight there has been an updated advice for schools. The full information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Updated advice for parents is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Here are some key points quoted from these links:

- ...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 fewer children in education 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 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.

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 permitted for educational 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.



## **Education and Childcare**

*This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals.*

## **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 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.*

## **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 Defense 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.*

If you fall into one of these categories please can you email Leigh Thomson at [l.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk](mailto:l.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk) before 3pm today so we can make appropriate arrangements for your son/daughter.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Plester  
Headteacher