



St Joseph's

Catholic Primary School

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20th March 2020

Dear all

As a country, we all need to do what we can to stop the spread of Covid-19. The Government have released guidance on self-isolation and the social distancing for the vulnerable. Please see our website www.stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk

The latest advice to reduce the spread is for children to remain at home wherever possible. This will limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and for schools to open for those children who absolutely have to attend. This is determined if a parent falls into a key worker category that will be listed below.

Parents whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response may be able to make plans to keep their children at home and advice from the government is that every child who can be cared for at home should be.

Please see the government advice below:

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.

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, 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 your school is closed then please contact your local authority, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

To summarise; if your work is critical to COVID-19 response or you work in one of the critical sectors listed, and you cannot keep your child at home, then your child will be prioritised for educational provision.

Although we will open St Joseph's for week beginning March 23rd, we will remind you that we can only continue doing this while we have the adequate staffing numbers to keep the children safe. If we do need to close, the Local Authority will work with you to provide care for your child at another educational setting.

Due to the late release of this information and parents and carers needing time to organise care for their children, **we ask you to alert the school if your child is needing provision by midday today**. You will understand we need to know exact numbers as we will have a duty of care to ensure adequate staff on site every day. It will not be a drop-in and out provision.

If your child or someone in your family develops symptoms, then please follow guidance and do not come to school at that time.

Kindest regards



Mrs Lisa Lazell
Executive Headteacher