

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Latest Update

The Government has now provided further guidance to schools and parents on school closures. The full guidance is [here](#) and [here](#).

Key points the Government is emphasising to parents:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- For children who need specialist support, are vulnerable or have a parent who is a critical worker, then the Government is asking schools to remain open to provide care for a limited number of children, but **only for those who absolutely need to attend.** The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.
- 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.
- 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.
- Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).
- If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed in the appendix to this letter, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

What you need to do if you are a parent who works in one of the key sectors and cannot keep your child safe at home

You **must** complete this [survey](#) to inform us that you intend to send your child to school. This is critical so we know who to expect and can take a register. **Please complete this by 6pm today** or as soon as you get this if after 6pm. We may, in due course, need to seek evidence that your child is entitled to be in school and will be firm with parents whose children are not entitled to be in. This is because we fully support the Government's efforts to limit the spread of the virus through distancing measures.

Our intention is that provision at school will involve a skeletal staff who will supervise children undertaking the learning activities that have been set for all children, as per my [letter](#) to you on Wednesday. Usual start and end time, and break and lunch arrangements will apply, and students coming into school will be expected to be in uniform. We have been informed by the Local Authority that usual school transport arrangements will apply. Please note, we may decide in due course to use just one of our schools, QEHS or HMS, as the venue, but will let you know if that is the case. In the meantime, provision will be at QEHS.

For parents/carers of vulnerable children

If we have not done so already we will contact you directly over the course of today. If for any reason you have not been contacted, please get in touch through the usual channels.

I shall write to you next week with further updates, including for parents of students in Years 11 and 13 who are anxious about qualifications. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Andriot
Head of School