

19th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has signalled that there may be a wider opening of schools from June 1st at the earliest subject to further scientific advice. We are currently in the process of responding to the government guidelines that have emerged throughout this week and we will be writing to you shortly to outline how we intend to respond to any potential wider opening.

Since 23rd March, the academy has been open to provide a childcare facility to accommodate the children of critical workers. **There will be no change to the availability of this provision from 1st June as this group will remain the priority for school places.** We will also continue to provide places for vulnerable children.

I am sure that you will appreciate that we only have a limited number of both rooms and staff to support any wider opening and it is therefore important that in order for us to plan further **we must have an indication of the childcare bookings as soon as possible.**

For this reason, the critical worker childcare booking form has been opened today and can be found by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/BwQ2kVnzWE3qQb3U8>

As we potentially move into a new phase of working (with more children accessing the academy in the future), we will not be opening a booking cycle every two weeks. Instead, we are asking that you indicate whether or not you require a place in the provision at any time. This is to help us to gain a sense of maximum numbers so that children can be grouped together in group sizes of no more than 15 children.

Should you require a childcare place, please complete the form by **3pm on Friday.**

You should be aware of the following:

- You should only book a place **if you have no other childcare options and you are a key worker** (defined by the government list - see below);
- The childcare provision runs for the time of a normal school day. **We are not currently offering before and after school care;**
- Only book if you intend to use the facility and are happy for your child to attend school at this time. This ensures that we have enough space to offer those who have an absolute need for the place;
- Be aware that you may be asked to prove your status as a key worker (e.g. confirmation from your employer). Your employer may also need to confirm that your work cannot be carried out from home.

If you do not require a critical worker childcare place you do not need to take any further action. If your child is in Year 6 and you require a critical worker childcare place you should still complete the form to request this.

Yours faithfully,

M Vickers
Principal

Who are 'Critical Workers'?

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 childcare provision in schools:

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.