



Working Together in Partnership



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28th January 2021

Dear Families,

I am sure you will all accept that the guidance issued by DfE on critical workers has created increasing pressure on classroom numbers and school capacity. I am therefore writing to you to seek your support in continuing to deliver a safe learning environment for those that need face to face provision. Given the increased demand for places and the reduced capacity we have available, it is sadly not possible to accommodate every request for a place in school. In the absence of any further guidance from DfE, we have established an order of priority upon which places can be offered.

- vulnerable children
- children where both parents are critical workers or children with single parents who are critical workers. NHS and education key workers to take priority if needed
- Children where only one of two parents is a critical worker. NHS and education key workers to take priority if needed.

We do understand that prioritising places may cause some concerns amongst parents but given our current operational challenges and government recognition that schools do play a role in the transmission of the virus, we must endeavour to ensure our school is safe.

To enable adequate social distancing of pupils and staff, our Risk Assessment stipulates the following pupil numbers within a class 'bubble'.

EY and KS1 - 6-8 pupils

Y3/4 and Y5/6 – 6-8 pupils

If numbers exceed this amount in any class, the use of the hall would allow 10 pupils (an absolute maximum of 12 pupils)

We are already using the school hall due to high numbers attending in Y3/4.

Please check the attached latest guidance from DfE ([8th January 2021](#)) that clearly identifies the categories of work classified as critical workers. Note it also states...

*'Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***





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Whilst we do hold information from many of you regarding critical worker roles, we may need to contact you to clarify which category this falls into if unsure. If you have not shared this information previously since January 2021, please use the attached information to confirm your work status so we can correctly prioritise your child's place at school if required.

It is also essential that you do not request more days than required for you to work. This could allow us to offer more places to those who need it.

Where necessary we will further prioritise places as follows:

- Health & Social Care
- Education & Childcare
- Local & National Government. Only occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID response, EU transition, essential public services
- Key Public Services - management of the deceased, justice system, Charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- Public Safety and National Security - border security, prison/probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas, non-frontline police staff
- Food and other necessary goods – production, processing, distribution, delivery
- Transport and border
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If we experience a shortage of staff, we may need to close or reduce numbers in bubbles. Mixing of bubbles may be necessary if staffing shortages occur, however we will try hard not to move staff across bubbles unless we really have to.

If you have any concerns or questions about the above information, please contact school and I will be happy to discuss reasoning behind these decisions.

Yours Sincerely,

Joanne Austin

