

Email
Our ref IPe/VB
Date 13 January 2021

Dear parent and carer

We hope you are safe and well and we are writing to you about the government's updated announcements of the new COVID-19 restrictions.

From 5 January 2021 until advised otherwise, schools will only be open for vulnerable and key worker children. Limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households and it helps to keep everyone safe. However, on 8 January 2021, the government has asked key workers to keep their children at home if they can and please make every effort to follow this advice. The government's guidance says,

'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.'

We know this will not be welcome news for some parents and carers but it is necessary if we are to successfully reduce the transmission of the virus. Therefore, we would appreciate you working with your child's school about supporting your child's learning.

If a key worker is unable to keep their child at home, then please talk to your child's school about accessing a school place. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a key worker are eligible to access a school place if they cannot keep their child at home. Your child's school does not have a discretion over who is a key worker since the government has identified these. Key worker jobs and roles are listed on the additional sheet. In addition, if your child meets one of the criteria for being a vulnerable learner then they can also access a school place. Your school may also be in contact with you if they believe your child meets the criteria about being a vulnerable learner. The definition of these children is also included on an additional sheet attached to this letter. In addition, please also contact your school if you need to know more about the remote learning offer from your school.

Nurseries and early years providers are not affected by the government's announcements, although you should continue to look out for information from your local early years provider.

If your child does not meet one of the criteria, then schools and colleges cannot allow other children to attend at this time. We know you will be keen to support them with their home learning. In addition, we know all parents and carers will also be keen to support your child's school as well. You have done an amazing job by helping your child learn throughout the pandemic, and by working together we can best support your child to progress in their learning.

Yours sincerely

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