

Dear Parents and Carers

As you have been informed school will be closing as of today Friday 20th 2020 with the exception of children who fall into specific vulnerable groups. The government have now released further information which can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

These vulnerable groups have been describe as:

*'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.***

We have been asked to provide provision in school for the children of 'Key Workers;' these are Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response and applies if only one parent is a key worker. Please note this will be childcare provision and not educational.

The government have sent the following guidance:

'Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

'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.**

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.'

A form has been uploaded to the school website to be completed and returned to school. If you require school childcare provision and believe you fall into one of the 'Key Worker' groups identified below, **please fill out the form that we have uploaded to the website ideally today, but at the latest Monday. I know this is short notice but we have been awaiting clarification from the government that has only just been sent to school. Please notify the office today if you intend on bringing your child to school on Monday as we need to know numbers for staffing.** This form can also be obtained from the school office.

The Government has described Key worker as:

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.

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.

All members of the staff at St Cuthbert's would like to assure you that they are committed to provide whatever is feasible during this challenging period to support our children and their families. However, it is also important to acknowledge that they too are members of families and that their health alongside the health of their family has to be a major consideration when looking at school provision during this time. If St Cuthbert's do have to close at some point then you will need to contact your Local Authority who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend. Please in the meantime follow the government's advice on self-isolating and social distancing if you or any family members develop any symptoms.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Mrs A Steele
Acting Headteacher