



*We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together*

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 6.30am

Dear parents and carers

### Urgent Coronavirus Update – School closure & Key Workers

**THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN UPDATED SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING. HOWEVER IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED A FORM WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ALLOCATE PLACES**

I am sure many of you will have watched the broadcast from the Government, which has **instructed all schools to close, except to pupils of key workers and the most vulnerable** (those with an Educational Healthcare Plan or currently linked to a Social Worker) as of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15pm.

Key workers are deemed to be those providing an essential service to the community. Various groups have been working with Government ministers to define which groups of workers these include. We will be sticking strictly to these definitions. So far at 9pm this evening we have been advised that key workers will include the following groups but will be further defined tomorrow and may change:

In the early hours of this morning the Government produced an extensive list of 'Key Workers'. This is shared in Appendix 1. The Government has also confirmed that school will be made open to the children of essential workers if at least one parent is an essential worker.

The aim of the Government's strategy is to reduce the number of children in school whilst ensuring that essential workers are available to work as required. As such, even if you are a Key Worker, if you do not need this provision, because you already have suitable childcare in place, I urge you to keep with your original plans. As potentially, this could be a significant number of families. Should the school not be able to provide for the number of families needing this, the Local Authority will step in to find the provision required. The provision being offered cannot be opened to others who may also need to work but are not 'key workers.' and I appreciate that this will cause difficulty for many of you.

The school still needs to determine what potential numbers requiring this provision could be in order to be ready to respond. **Once all forms are returned we will be able to determine if we can currently staff the number of places required.** If you feel that you may meet the criteria to access the school's provision and require it, please complete the form below and return to the school office or alternatively (**and preferably**), via email [keyworker@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) by 11.30am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We will work to provide everything we can and know that you will support us in achieving this.

Rest assured that we are doing absolutely everything that we can to make this work and the staff team are behind our 'plan' 100%. Each and every one of you remain in our prayers.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jon White (Headteacher)



## APPENDIX I

**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 education provision:**

**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.***



**Children of 'Keyworkers' and 'vulnerable children'  
Request for accessing school provision from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

I would like to request that my child(ren) attend(s) school during the time that schools are closed

Child's name	Class

I need to access this provision because (please tick):

At least 1 parent is a key worker (as defined in App 1) and I have no other safe option for childcare

My child is currently supported by an EHCP and I would like them to attend

My child is currently linked to a named Social Worker

I understand that this provision is for the regular school day and that I will need to make appropriate arrangements for drop-off and collection

**Details of keyworker(s)**

**First Parent/Carer's Name:**

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Key worker's Job Title:

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Name of Employer:

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Work Telephone Number:

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Line Manager's Name & Job Title:

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**Second Parent/Carer's Name:**

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Key worker's Job Title:

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Name of Employer:

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Work Telephone Number:

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Line Manager's Name & Job Title:

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**GDPR:**

Personal data will only be used in order to allocate provision and will be destroyed once a 'normal' school service resumes.

