



Headteacher: Mrs. Sharon Chinnappa B.Sc. (Hons) M.Ed. NPQH

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Provision for Students of Key Worker and Vulnerable Students

Late last night, the Government provided a definitive list of key workers. Schools have been asked to provide a service for children where the parents are in this category and they cannot provide an alternative themselves for children during the school day.

The definition of key workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I must emphasise that this service is an emergency service and is only for key workers and at the discretion of the school. Please do not try and use this service if you do not fall into these categories. This will of course be dependent on our capacity to provide a viable provision, which may change over time.

The advice from the Government still remains that all children must stay at home wherever possible and only use the service at school if, as a last resort, there is no safe alternative. This is the first principle of the Government guidance.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Further, when youngsters are in school, it must be remembered that the Government advice on social distancing is compromised for students and staff.

Other points to clarify during this time

- No child is to be sent to school if the family is self-isolating.
- School dinners will still be available to order during this time.
- Please remember normal school rules apply during the time students are with us.
- Our school opening hours will remain unchanged during this time.

I know we have contacted all of you this afternoon to explain what will be happening but wanted to clarify the situation through this letter. As of 2pm Friday 20th March the school is temporarily closed and will no longer be offering an educational curriculum.

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On Monday 23rd March we will be opening as a childcare facility for those mentioned above, we will endeavour to provide a range of suitable activities.

I appreciate that the restriction on the provision we can provide may appear limiting. It is important to remember the health and well-being of children, as well as that of teachers and workers in educational settings is important; the system will not cope if it is overwhelmed.

Educational staff are critical workers in the fight against this virus. Our plans currently take us up to the Easter Holiday. At present, we believe we can offer a limited service for students who fall into the categories. However, the situation is fluid and if more staff have to self-isolate, the provision may have to be withdrawn. Further, if the Government impose further restrictions on movement and social distancing, then we will also review the provision.

Thank you for your continued support in these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sharon Chinnappa

Headteacher

Prospect School