

Aspiration  
Respect  
Endeavour

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Roding Valley  
HIGH SCHOOL

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are now aware, schools will be closing today, until further notice for the vast majority of pupils. This action has been taken to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidelines on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **ONLY** for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children whose parents/carers are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. **Many parents/carers who are key workers may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home, every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

In order to assist with our planning for this provision, **we need to identify which of those children of key workers are going to need to send their children to school and have no alternative.** To that end, we are asking key worker parents/carers to complete the attached online form by following the link below as a matter of urgency **by 2pm today, Friday 20th March 2020.** [Key Workers](#)

Please, therefore, follow these key principles when completing the form:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent/carer who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- Parents/Carers 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.
- Parents/Carers 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.



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We now understand that key workers are those who work in the following areas:

- National Health Service
- Community safety (fire and police) - key public services including essential transport
- Education
- Food - essential provision of key goods
- Public safety and national security

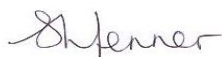
If workers think that they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

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

I do appreciate that this is a quick turnaround but we need to make plans to accommodate the correct number of children. Then we can make the necessary arrangements and provide further details of the provision offered.

Please note that moving forward this may not be delivered at Roding Valley High School by Roding Valley staff.

Yours faithfully



Sharon Jenner  
Headteacher

