

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government has now issued further guidance on key workers. This academy will close at the end of school today for most pupils, however, it will remain open to provide care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children. If you fit the criteria for a Key Worker you must complete the attached form and if your child is attending school on Monday, they should bring the form with them and hand it to a member of staff.

At this moment in time we are prepared to accept pupils in school where only one parent/carer is a key worker, **however, we may need to change this in the near future, dependent on pupil numbers attending school and staff absences.** If we do change, it would be to accept children in school from homes where all parents in a household are key workers.

This is the latest government advice on this situation:

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

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.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. 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 education provision:

- *Health and social care*
- *Education and childcare*
- *Key public services*
- *Local and national government*
- *Food and other necessary goods*
- *Public safety and national security*
- *Transport*
- *Utilities, communication and financial services*

In summary, the Academy will remain open from Monday only for pupils whose parents are classified as key workers or who themselves are classified as vulnerable.

If your child attends school on Monday they must bring with them the completed form below.

As previously stated for the safety of everybody '**many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home**'.

For all other students whose parents are not classified as key workers or are not vulnerable children, the academy is closed for the foreseeable future. During the period of closure, teachers will be setting appropriate work for all students. Your child will have/has received a pack either from school or if you are already in self-isolation it will be delivered.

Our expectations of students are that they should complete all of the work set by their teachers and should aim to work from home during normal school hours.

If your child receives Pupil Premium they are entitled to a free packed lunch (term time only), please email the office this weekend, by Sunday 22nd March to confirm child's name and whether they are vegetarian or not. Ordered packed lunches will be available for collection outside the main school building between 11:30am and 12:15pm. In order to observe social distancing guidance, we have allocated a timeslot for collection as follows:-

Surnames beginning:-

A to F	11:30am
G to L	11:45am
M to Q	12:00pm
R to Z	12:15pm

Even during a period of school closure, our primary concern is the safety of our pupils. Mrs Linney will maintain contact with families where there are specific pupil needs. Her contact details are: 07437 474 268

During the closure period parents can use the office@oriel-aspirations.org email address to contact school or Mrs Linney. It is important that this contact is only used for emergency messages and urgent queries and not for day to day contact with teachers. The office email address will be monitored daily by Mrs Jackson, School Business Manager.

We would urge you to follow the latest government advice regarding the virus, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

As we receive further information on the closure for parents it will be posted on the school website.

We wish you well during this very difficult time and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to reopen our school. **IF THE ATTACHED FORM APPLIES TO YOU PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD RETURNS IT TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY MORNING AND GIVES IT TO A MEMBER OF STAFF.**

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elizabeth A Linney', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs Elizabeth A Linney
Principal

Parental Feedback Form - Key Worker Audit

This form aims to collate information from parents regarding whether they have key worker status so that we can continue to provide care for their children during the coronavirus pandemic.

Full Name of Child: _____

Year Group: _____

Are you a working parent? **Yes/No**

Are you able to work from home? **Yes/No/Not applicable**

Do you consider yourself a "key worker"? (A key worker is defined as somebody who works within the public sector and whose continuing employment is deemed crucial to both the economy and in helping to battle the infection) **Yes/No**

If you consider yourself as a key worker, please complete the table below:

Key worker categories	Exact role - please explain your job e.g. Nurse
Health and social care	
Education and childcare	
Key public services	
Local and national government	
Food and other necessary goods	
Public safety and national security	
Transport	
Utilities, communications and financial services	

If you have listed a specific role above, would you likely need your child in school to support you in your role during the period of school closure? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker or your child is classed as a vulnerable pupil, do you intend to send your child into the Academy from next Monday? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker, do you intend to send your child to school for the period of the Easter holiday? **Yes/No**