



HIGHER OPENSHAW COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
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20th March 2020

### COVID 19 UPDATE

From Monday school will be closed to the majority of pupils. This is a time of national crisis and as a school we want to fully support the children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. We need to do this to ensure these critical keyworkers are able to do their job in this very difficult and worrying time.

This is a very different type of provision than we usually provide for these pupils, it will be about care, not education. This is about keeping children safe and allowing these key workers with no other child care arrangements to do their very important and vital job in this unprecedented situation.

**If you are a keyworker and you have other child care provision or a partner who is able to care in the household this provision is not for you.**

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

Children of keyworkers who are offered care provision will be contacted if they are eligible to attend on Monday.

All other children apart from those identified as vulnerable (those parents know) will be expected NOT to be in school from Monday.

### **IMPORTANT advice from the government guidance this morning.**

The School care from Monday is only for children whose **parents are critical to the Covid-19 response** and cannot be safely cared for at home.

#### **From today's guidance:**

*'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. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.'*

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

Thank you for your understanding and support, keep safe and take care everyone,

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

