



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

20th March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

School Closure 20th March 2020




As per the recent announcement by the Prime Minister Spalding Parish Church of England Day School will be closed from the end of the day on Friday 20th March until further notice.

The intention of school closure is to limit social contact with the DfE's aim to reduce the school population to under 10%. Indeed this policy of closure will not have the effect that it needs to if we remain open for significant numbers of children.

There are some exceptions to this closure, these being:

-  **Vulnerable children** including children Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and/or supported by social care;
-  **Children of key workers** e.g. NHS, Emergency and Prison services, teachers, social care, delivery services and those involved in food services, HM Forces where **both** parents are key workers unless sole parenting. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

However in order to be in line with DfE guidance the following will also be applied.

-  If one of the parents is **NOT** a key worker then they will be expected to take on the care of the child/children at home.
-  If there are two key workers but they work shifts then they will be expected to take on the care of the child/children at home.
-  If there is a family member who is not in a vulnerable group who can look after the child/children then they will be expected to take on the care of the child/children at home.

Parents/carers must have explored all other options before sending their child to school. Remember that children are safer at home and staff are safer with them at home too. We are aware that some key worker parents have already put childcare arrangements in place to ensure that provision can be in place for as long as possible for those who really need it, thank you. There may also be instances where support is needed for only part of each week again reducing the impact on limited resources. Government advice is very clear that children who can remain at home should and parents/carers, wherever possible, should make alternative arrangements.

"If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. 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 and cannot arrange childcare."



Clay Lake, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QG

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Follow us on Twitter: @SPCEDS

Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

Vulnerable Pupils

If your child has an EHCP, you will already have been contacted by Sam Bocoock (SENCo). We have also started to contact the parents/carers of other vulnerable pupils who are eligible to attend. If you have not already been contacted, contact will be made during the day today.

Key Workers

If you feel you meet the criteria and no alternative provision is available please complete the attached form and return to the school office or via email feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk no later than 3pm today. All information needs to be included and if returning by email 'Key Worker' should be included in the subject. Occupations will be checked against the Government list and proof of occupation/Work ID will be required.

We will then be in touch as soon as possible regarding potential provision once we have greater clarity on what the figure looks like for the school when emails have been received. Confirmation will then be sent to individual requests if the school can manage and sustain provision for those who absolutely need it.

It goes without saying that 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. This is not about 'entitlement' it is about doing the right thing for the greater good of society; accommodating the greatest need, limiting social interaction and the spread of the virus - allowing school to stay open for those who need it the most.

We must stress, that despite the Prime Minister's statement, SPCEDS are also significantly affected by staff absence and parents/carers must accept that we will not be in a position to operate a normal timetable with a very different type of provision in place; for these pupils the focus will be on care, not education. This is about keeping children safe and allowing essential key workers to go to work to care for the sick, or to keep food supply chains moving. If it remains the case that we do not have enough staff to care for pupils safely then, subject to a risk assessment and consultation with the Trust/Governors, a full closure may be necessary which will ultimately impact negatively on all our key worker families.

It is absolutely imperative that children are only sent to school where there is no other care available to ensure that as a provision we are able to remain open for as long as possible. This situation will be reviewed daily so if we are able to offer provision this will be day to day. Please keep your children at home if possible - if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

We do appreciate that many families will be affected by the current situation. This is also true for schools with a very real sense of 'managing the best we can' with the staff available. The key message is that schools are closed, whilst remaining open to those for whom it is absolutely essential doing what we can to support our families, given these unprecedented circumstances. Thank you to all of you who are working hard to support our community and the most vulnerable in our society in these uncertain times. As stated earlier 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; including your children and my staff - allowing the school to stay open to those who need it the most. **Please note these arrangements are currently for term time only unless otherwise directed by central government. We will keep you informed as we receive information.**

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REQUEST A SCHOOL PLACE FROM MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2020

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY 3PM TODAY, FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

All information is treated confidentially, and all data collected is in line with GDPR regulations. We apologise if the questions seem intrusive but hope that you appreciate the challenging situation schools are currently in and the short time scale in which we have to organise provision.

Number of children attending the school and Year Groups:

Name of child 1:	Year Group:
Name of child 2:	Year Group:
Name of child 3:	Year Group:
Name of child 4:	Year Group:

Names and contact details of Parents/Carers (please include current email address so we are able contact you).

Mother:

Father:

Key Workers Information

Please note, we are being advised to ask that you provide employment ID or a letter from your employer to verify this status.

1a) Are you a key worker defined in the government's list of key workers? Please specify (include details for both parents).

Mother:

Father:

1b) Please detail your job roles and employers.

Mother:

Father:

1c) If provision is available, are you planning on sending your child(ren) to school on Monday 23rd March (current plans for provision will be 8.50am-3.20pm)?

1d) It may be that the Government decides to offer local area provision at another local school if we are not able to offer it here. If this is the case, will you still require a school place?

Please be reminded that, if at all possible, children should be cared for at home to reduce social contact. The arrangements for school remaining open for identified groups are only in exceptional circumstances and where other arrangements are not possible.

Thank you for your information. Please return this to the school office by 3pm today.



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