

Monday March 23rd 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today heralds the start of schooling as we have never seen it before and we know that you will join me in thanking the staff in your school who are opening today, to offer care to those children of critical workers and vulnerable children where there is **no other choice** but to attend school.

We know that there is so much media information for key workers about whether you should send your child to school and much of it is very confusing. We appreciate the anxiety and worry this is causing; it is also causing anxiety and worry for our school staff who are opening schools today and who are at the frontline of the Covid-19 response whilst being concerned for their own families also. We are truly blessed to have such people working in our schools.

To offer some clarity, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and also the Schools Minister are urging that you should only send your child into school if you absolutely have to because your work is **critical** to the Covid-19 response or you have a vulnerable child that **you are not able to care for at home**. The advice says:

Many families with a parent or carer working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

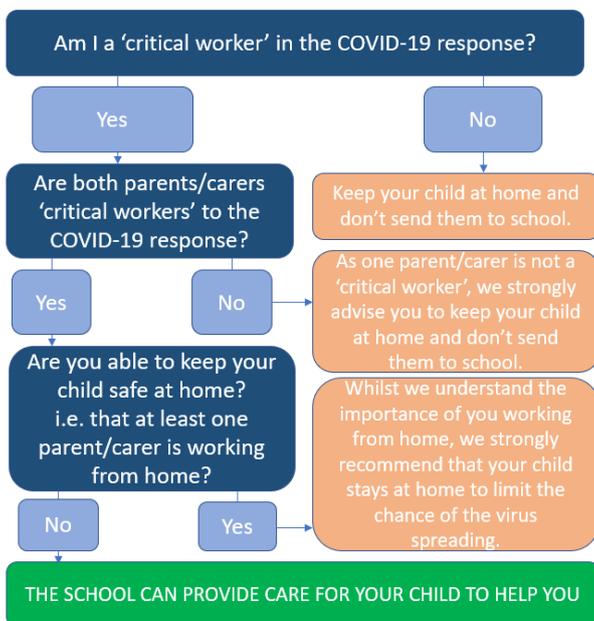
Your children are **safest at home with you**, where you can enforce social distancing and be their primary carer rather than schools.

Please use this link to read an article published today on the BBC regarding this.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51999539>

Also, if you have access to twitter, please follow Gavin Williams, Secretary of State for Education @GavinWilliamson.

Therefore, to reduce any chance of the virus spreading and to keep your children, our staff and their families safe, we are urging all key worker parents and those with vulnerable children to only send their children in if this is absolutely, 100% necessary. The flow chart below may help you to make this decision in this challenging time.



Yours kindly,

Jackie Waters Dewhurst

CEO LAAT

Tamara Allen

DCEO, LAAT