



Crowlands Primary School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the very latest guidance we have received from the Department for Education.

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.

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.**

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](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support head teachers to do so.

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.**
5. **Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.**

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

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).



Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think 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.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

As a school we will be opening to **provide care** for the children who fall into the categories above. Thanks to the parents who have already emailed us to inform us that their children will be attending school next week and for the foreseeable future. Please email us before midday today office@crowlands.havering.sch.uk to let us know if your child will be attending so that I can have the appropriate number of staff at school and also to inform catering. I urge you to if possible keep your children at home as this is the safest place for them at this time.

Your child will not be able to attend school next week if we haven't heard from you before midday. All pupils who come into school next week will come through the main entrance. The back entrance gate will not be open. The school car park will be open for parents to use to drop pupils off and collect them. All pupils will be signed in on entry to make sure we have the correct pupils attending. All pupils will be provided with a school dinner to decrease the risk of infection packed lunches cannot be brought into school. This is a tricky time for us all and we may not get everything right as we have little understanding of the impact of the government decisions at this time. Please support us and work with us to ensure things go as smoothly as possible.

I would like to thank my amazing staff team who have shown such positivity and dedication in such a difficult time. I am grateful that they are still committed to doing their best even if they are too putting themselves at risk. Thanks for your understanding and patience during this time I am extremely grateful for how our whole school community is pulling together, a community I am proud of!



Stay safe and keep in touch via the office email address if I can assist you at any time in the future. It has as always been a pleasure to work with you and your amazing children.

Yours Sincerely,

H McClenaghan

H McClenaghanan
Executive Headteacher

