



# Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS  
Web site: [www.alfredstreetjunior.org](http://www.alfredstreetjunior.org)  
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Telephone: 01933 353762  
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Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor  
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

20.3.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

We have received some further clarification from the Government about the provision for children of essential key workers.

I have pasted the significant information below but the full report is available online <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The most recent scientific advice on how to 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. 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.

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**.

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

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

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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

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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.**

Further questions and answers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

We are hoping to keep Alfred Street Junior School open to the vulnerable children and for those key workers who cannot put alternatives arrangements in place to keep their children safe at home, whilst we have the staffing to do so. This provision will be care not education during these unprecedented times. In order to follow the Government guidance lines on reducing the spread of the virus, and to protect the staff and children who will be in our care, we may need to prioritise the children we will provide care for here at Alfred Street. There is a possibility that, if our ratios are too high, due to health and safety or staff shortage, we may need to seek alternative arrangements in different establishments for some children requiring a place, but this would be a last resort. I assure you that we too work in a caring profession and any provision that those children who require it, will be the best we can provide and they will be well looked after.

In order to help us to prioritise our children and to plan provision, please complete the questionnaire on the ParentsAPP, **by 4pm today**, if you believe you are a key worker, and having read the above information, you require provision to be in place. If you do require provision we will then contact you to request confirmation from your employer and of your shifts so that the children are only in provision for as long as they need to be.

I hope you all continue to keep safe and thank you for continuing to support the Government in stopping the spread.

Kind regards

Mrs K O'Connor

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