



BDMAT
Birmingham Diocesan
Multi-Academy Trust

Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust
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Dear Parent / Carer

Key worker definition

Following the recent announcement from the Prime Minister, your child's school is now closed with the exception that it is open to children of key workers and certain vulnerable groups of children. The school is run by the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust and this information is being provided by us to ensure that only the children identified by the government are allowed into school, this is to ensure that the coronavirus does not spread further across the country and put the health of individuals, especially the elderly and ill at risk.

The government has announced the groups that can be classed as key workers, and these are at the end of this letter.

Under the government guidelines 'key workers' are those that are **critical** to the COVID-19 response and some involved in EU transition arrangements, including 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, for example because their partner does not work in a 'critical' occupation. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be as we need to limit the number of children and staff in schools in the fight against the virus.** Please ensure that you meet these requirements before sending your child into school.

The government guidance states that:

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.

Can we reinforce the following:

- To be classed as a 'key worker' **your role must be critical to the COVID-19 response**
- If you have a partner who does not have a role critical to the COVID-19 response they should be looking after the children unless there are exceptional circumstances e.g. their age or they are in a risk group
- Even if your sector has been designated as 'key workers' it does not necessarily mean that your role within that organisation is 'critical' – please check with your employer

We know that this is a difficult time for you and many of you will be worried about your jobs and income but the government is clear, the aim of this policy is to reduce the amount of social contact we are having with one another to reduce the risks. We are asking all parents who are using school places because they are key workers to complete a key worker declaration form.

To access the key worker declaration form [click here](#).

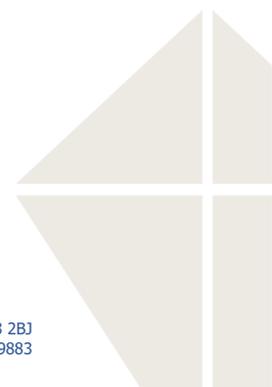
Please do not put our school staff in a difficult position by taking your child to school when they do not meet the criteria for being in school. School staff are putting their health at risk in order to support the country at this time of crisis. If the school asks you not to bring your child to school as they don't feel you meet the criteria the responsibility must be on you, and not the school to prove that the criteria do apply – this might be through gaining written confirmation from your employer.

Your support in these matters is greatly appreciated – these are challenging times and our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Mansell

Dr Christopher Mansell
Chief Executive Officer



Key worker definitions

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; in addition, some roles are essential as a result of the EU transition arrangements. 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. If your child also would have difficulty engaging with remote learning at home please let your school's headteacher know (e.g. lack of IT devices or space to study)
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 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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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

