



Critical Worker Provision

The purpose of this National Lockdown is to reduce transmission of Covid whilst our NHS is experiencing such high demand. To achieve this the message for all must be stay at home where possible. We are currently experiencing a much higher demand for Critical Worker provision than was seen during the first lockdown and if this continues it is likely to lead to higher transmission rates within the general community. Please only use this provision if necessary and there is no other way for your child to remain at home and learn remotely. The provision provided for our remote learning is modelled on our individual school provisions. In line with Leicestershire Local Authority. Please only access this provision if adults in the household are key workers and attending work that day.

Please can you ensure that we are kept up to date with your requirements. Your child's place in school will be kept open, even if you need it some weeks and not others. The update will enable us to ensure our registers are accurate and that appropriate staffing is in place.

Our head teachers at each school will manage their provision and as a Trust we are following the guidance from the DFE released on the 8th January 2021. See link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The latest government guidance for schools (published 8th January 2021) states:

“Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.”

School attendance has been restricted not because schools are unsafe places, but to reduce the risk of community transmission of a highly transmissible new COVID-19 variant. The higher the number of pupils in school, the greater the risk of increasing community transmission and the higher the risk to vulnerable members of our families and communities.

To support our critical worker families we do not restrict the number of days your child is on site, this can be as many or as infrequent as necessary. However, I would ask you to consider carefully which specific days each week your child does need to be on site. This will support the current guidance of students working at home if they can.

Head Teachers across our Trust, in conjunction with the LA and The OWLS Trust are best placed to make decisions about how best to provide places for critical workers and vulnerable children based on what is safe, keeps transmission down, supports our most vulnerable children, enables critical services to continue to be delivered and enables the continued delivery of high quality remote learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this matter.

Take Care Stay Safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Meng', written in a cursive style.

CEO OWLS Trust.