

# St Crispin's School

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St. Crispin's  
Excellence for all



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: COVID-19 Key Workers

I am now pleased to confirm that the DfE has overnight published full advice and guidance regarding schools' opening to some students.

The advice confirms that closing schools to most students will limit the spread of Covid-19 and consequently **if students can stay safely at home, they should** and that schools remain open only "for those students who absolutely need to attend."

St Crispin's remains a safe place but the fewer students making the journey to school, and indeed fewer in school, will lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. The government has set out in their advice to parents which is:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

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.

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.

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 as a parent 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 arm's 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.

As Headteacher do not intend (nor want!) to be the arbiter of who is classed as a critical worker and I will simply follow these guidelines. **I am wholly committed to providing first rate and safe education for your sons or daughters within the operational challenges we face.** To facilitate this I would ask that parents who understand from this list that they are a critical worker and wish their son or daughter to attend school that they register is intent on this simple online form [here](#). By definition of you being a critical worker I know you will be very busy but if it were at all possible to complete the form today it would help me make the best arrangements for Monday! Please don't feel exercised if you weren't able to meet this request simply fill in the form as soon as you are able so that I can ensure we have complete registers for next week and beyond.

We will contact parents individually to confirm if their son or daughter is considered vulnerable and to confirm their attendance at school. 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 Educational Health and Care Plans.

**On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the school day will begin at 9.15am** this will allow me time to issue new operational instructions to staff (new curriculum plan, timetable, pastoral care arrangements etc) to ensure a safe and orderly start of the day. **The school will be open to all students as normal from 8.30am. Students may arrive from this time and should report to the library where they will be supervised before the new timetable commences. All students are required to wear full school uniform.**



It may be the case that availability of well staff at St Crispin's is so restricted that we do have to close if this were to be the case you would then contact the Local Authority contact your local authority, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that students, can attend.

Yours faithfully,

*V. E. Rhodes*

Ms Rhodes

Headteacher