



Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Parent \ Carer

Schools have been instructed to close.

The government has told schools to provide care for a limited number of children.

**If children can stay at home, they must.**

We will try to provide **child care** to Chauncy students **who meet the government's criteria**.

We ask that you read the government guidance below before applying for this child care provision.

We ask families to let us know by **noon** on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020** if your child needs to attend Chauncy School on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**.

- Child Care will be available from **8.30am – 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday** until further notice.
- Children will need to bring a **packed lunch**, a **water bottle** and **snacks**. No food will be available at the school.
- Children in our care will need to be **healthy** and **well**.
- Children must **remain on the school site** until **4.00pm**.
- Children **do not have to wear school uniform**.
- Children will not be taking lessons and our staff will be supervising only. Children can use our library to read, our computer rooms to access the on-line learning already distributed by their teachers and the field to run around.

If you are a **critical worker** or if your children **meet the other criteria** in the link below you must contact [admin@chauncy.org.uk](mailto:admin@chauncy.org.uk) by **noon** on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

Yours sincerely,

**Steve Walton (Deputy Headteacher)**

**Headteacher: Mr Dennis O'Sullivan BSc MA**  
**Chauncy School**

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## Government Guidance

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:

- **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.**
- **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.**

For further information, please refer to the Department for Education :

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