



SWINEMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

The Government guidance has now been published, and we are working hard to ensure we are in a position to offer those children who will be with us a safe environment going forward.

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. 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. 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.

From the outset, I would like to stress five key points which underpin the national strategy of reducing social contact and protecting the most vulnerable:

The guidance states that:

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 observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

With regard to eligibility, the guidance states that:

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 **only on the days that you are needed at work.**





SWINEMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.





SWINEMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

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.

Practical arrangements for school:

In the first instance we would like families to consider their eligibility of, and need for, the provision which will be provided. If you feel that your child will require this service, we will do all we can to help.

Normal school hours will be maintained, and children should attend in school uniform.

It is clear to schools that the priority at this time is **not** to continue standard curriculum delivery and learning progress, but rather providing a safe and reassuring environment for our children.

School meals will be available until further notice. However, we ask you to be aware that the menu is subject to change on any given day and ask for your understanding in this.

Usual drop off and collection arrangements will remain, and we will always do a physical hand-over at the end of the day for EYFS and KS1 pupils.

Clearly, we are making quite rapid decisions about how the provision may operate, but at the moment we envisage that only children from Swinemoor Primary School, and only staff from the school, will be on site. We will of course review all our arrangements as the situation settles, and it is possible that local arrangements may change at certain periods and over time.

As the provision is an offer, not a requirement, we feel we can cater for flexibility in terms of when pupils attend. For instance, it may be that families require support for two days a week but can cover the rest. All we ask is that you communicate this pattern to the school **preferably by email** so we know who we are expecting each day.





SWINEMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

What do parents need to do:

If your child will be using the provision, please email (or leave a telephone message with the office if you are unable to email) before Monday with the following information:

- Which Key Worker Group do you belong to?
- Are you the primary care giver, with no other parent who can look after your child/children?
- Name of your employer:
- Employer's contact details:

(Please be aware that we may need to contact your employer)

- Your emergency contact details:

We also ask that when your child comes to school on Monday, he or she should bring with them the attached form, completed by yourself as parent/carer.

We reserve the right to send a child(ren) home if they become unwell or exhibit poor behaviours for learning. Should your child or a member of the family become ill then the recommended isolation periods must be adhered to.

I am sure you will appreciate that we are doing everything to make sense of this situation and put the right things in place to support your children. We ask that you bear with us while we adapt to this new mandate we have been given, and work with us to help our community stay safe.

Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L. A. Myers.

Head Teacher

