



20th March 2020

## Coronavirus: Trust Update no 4

### SCHOOL CLOSURES: KEY GROUPS CONFIRMED

We have now received additional guidance from the Department for Education and can confirm that schools across the Trust will close with effect from Monday 23rd March. This closure will apply to almost all children and, at this point, the closure is indefinite.

This action is being taken in order to halt the spread of the virus and the government advice is now clear: **“If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.”**

Trust schools, therefore, will only open for children in specific groups who cannot be cared for at home. The government advice is as follows:

- 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

The government’s list of key workers and key pupil groups is printed in its entirety below. Please note that only one parent needs to be in a key group in order for a child to remain at school. If, having read the information in key groups, you feel your child should be at school on Monday 23rd, please complete the online survey (link at the end of this update) so that we can plan accordingly.

### Key Groups:

#### 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.

## **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.

## Pupil Groups

This includes children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, those on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and headteachers may well contact parents separately.

If your children fall into a key group and cannot be looked after safely at home, please complete the online survey via the link below by 4.00pm today if possible and by 6.00pm at the latest.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RRT25MV>

For children and staff across the Trust, this will be a difficult day – particularly for those in Years 6, 11 and 13. We are extremely proud of how well everyone is coping in these extraordinary times and will be keeping in touch with everyone in the weeks ahead. Whilst schools will no longer be open to all pupils, we are here to help and support in whatever way we can, so please do not hesitate to phone or email either individual schools, or the Trust.

**Bacton**  
Primary School

**Cedars Park**  
Primary School

**Mendlesham**  
Primary School

**Stowupland**  
High School

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