**‘A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together’**

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**PLEASE NOTE THIS PROVISION IS ONLY TO BE OFFERED IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

This morning some greater explanation has been provided as to who schools should offer provision to in the coming weeks.

Headteachers must follow the key reason that schools have been asked to close;

**‘As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.’**

In order to do that, the guidance states:

‘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.’

I urge you therefore if there is another suitable carer at home please can this be used to reduce the numbers in school.

We want to support our community. If everyone applies this as their first principal the model can work for longer. If everyone demands places then infection rates rise, staff go off sick and the provision stops sooner – this is key in our decision making process.

**ACTION REQUIRED OF YOU NOW:**

If you think you fall within the critical categories shown below, you must now confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

**If you have no other childcare then please DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL AT PRESENT. WE WILL CONTACT YOU BASED ON THE INFORMATION WE GATHERED YESTERDAY.**

If after reading this you feel you no longer need childcare then please DO let us know via email.

The senior management team will consider all requests and confirm to you by the end of today to explain if a place is allocated. This could be after school closes due to the amount of work needed.

**Please remember that schools will act if parents attempt to manipulate or intimidate staff regarding this provision**

**The list of Key Workers;**

**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

**Education and childcare**

* This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals

**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

**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

**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.

**Vulnerable children**

* 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](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help).

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

Kind regards,



N M Badger

Acting Executive Headteacher for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust