



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lea Vale Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 2DT
Telephone: 01384 818325
info@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Principal: Mr A Carry

Dear Parent/Carer who class as Key Workers

At this difficult time, I thank you for your efforts in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. You will know more than most the importance of social distancing and people staying at home wherever possible.

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**. We have a duty of care for our staff and we are trying to minimise the number of staff required in school in our fight against this virus.

It is important to underline that school remains a safe place for children. However, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in our wider society.

As a school, we are 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.

The normal school hours will operate – 8.45-3.15 for your child if you work in health and social care and in other key sectors. At the moment before and after school club services will also be available during term time. Please contact Mrs Parveen directly on 07581 214437 for more details about opening hours and cost.

We ask that, if you fall in a key worker category, you do all you can to **minimise** the amount of time your child will need to be in school. For example, collecting your child early from school or dropping your child off late. We hope that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.** I thank you for respecting this key government aim.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, **then they should be.**
2. 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.
3. 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.

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Registered Office: Hagley Catholic High School, Brake Lane, Hagley, Worcestershire DY8 2XL
Telephone 01562 883193 Fax: 01562 881820





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As you have already contacted to say that your work is critical to the COVID 19 response, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for childcare.:

You should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is **necessary** for the continuation of this essential public service.

This is an incredibly difficult time for all of us. Please do not be offended if we ask for proof of your role in public service from your employer. We simply need to protect our pupils, our staff and the wider society from the spread of this awful virus.

Next steps:

1. Check with your employer that your specific role is **necessary** for the continuation of this essential public service and that they are happy to be contacted by school to confirm this fact.
2. Contact school by the end of Monday 23rd March in order to confirm that you are a key worker who meets the above and will need childcare. Please give the name of your line manager and contact number to Reception as they may be contacted. Please note that **no normal lessons will operate in school** due to severely reduced staffing. Children will complete the same activities that those at home are working on. They must wear full school uniform.
3. Please confirm how your child will be dropped off and collected from school.
4. You will need to communicate with us regarding sickness and absence as you would usually do.
5. In case of illness or an emergency in school, please change emergency contact details of elderly relatives or others who are vulnerable as we will have to call them if you are not available.
6. Please inform school every Monday morning what provision is required for the **following week**. For example, Monday morning, Tuesday all day, Friday morning etc. Remember that your child should not attend school unless it is **absolutely necessary** to protect our society.

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If staffing levels drop to an unsustainable level due to the virus, we will inform you to contact the Local Authority who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

I thank you, in anticipation, for your co-operation. Most importantly, thank you for your work in the fight against the coronavirus.

Do take care and stay safe – God bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Carry'.

Mr Carry

Acting Executive Head Teacher