

Dear Parents,

This academy will close at the end of school today for most pupils, however, it will remain open to provide care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children, which includes those children who have a social worker or an Education Health Care Plan. We have updated the declaration form for key workers. Please could you complete the attached form again and if your child is attending school on Monday, they should bring the form with them and hand it to a member of staff.

At this moment in time we are prepared to accept pupils in school where only one parent/carer is a key worker, however, we may need to change this in the near future, dependent on pupil numbers attending school and staff absences. If we do change, it would be to accept children in school from homes where all parents in a household are key workers.

For the time being, as stated we will accept children in school where only one parent/carer is a key worker.

This is the latest government advice on this situation:

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.

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.

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:

- 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 should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.*

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.

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.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

In summary, the Academy will remain open from Monday **only** for pupils whose parents are classified as key workers or who themselves are classified as vulnerable. If your child attends school on Monday 23rd March they must bring with them the completed form attached to this letter. If you can provide evidence of your role as a key worker that would be very useful to us as we try to accommodate the Government's drive for social distancing.

Learning programme for home

If your child is **in Y7, 8 or 9** they will be bringing home a pack of work today for use over the coming weeks. The pack contains some maths and English booklets and a pack of lined paper. We will be using Google Classroom to post support materials and instructions about what to do each day. We suggest that your child does an hour of maths, an hour of English, an hour of science and an hour of humanities each day. It would also be helpful if they did some exercise. If they have access to a garden that is the best place to get some fresh air as they will still be maintaining their social distance from others.

If your child was not in school today we invite you to visit school between 1.30 and 3.00 p.m. on **Monday 23rd March or Tuesday 24th March** to pick up the pack. The packs will be available from the Buttery (the dining room that we hold our parents' evenings in) for you to collect.

If your child is **in Y10, 11, 12 or 13** they will be following their normal timetable through lessons that their teachers will set day to day. Again we will be using Google Classroom to deliver these lessons.

Google classroom codes are being finalised today and you will received these in a separate mailing as we don't want to upload them to the website as they are for the use of Wykham Park and Futures students only

We appreciate that not everyone has access to the technology required to follow the learning programme we are creating. Thank you to parents who have alerted us to this. We will be creating separate packs for these children and will let you know when these are available from school early next week.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us on a newly formed email address just for the purpose of communicating with you during our school closure. The email address you should use for questions related to school closures is schoolclosures@wykhampark-aspirations.org

Many thanks

Yours faithfully,
Sylvia Thomas

Parental Feedback Form - Key Worker Audit

This form aims to collate information from parents regarding whether they have key worker status so that we can continue to provide care for their children during the coronavirus pandemic.

Full Name of Child: _____

Year Group: _____

Are you a working parent? **Yes/No**

Are you able to work from home? **Yes/No/Not applicable**

Do you consider yourself a "key worker"? *(A key worker is defined as somebody who works within the public sector and whose continuing employment is deemed crucial to both the economy and in helping to battle the infection)* **Yes/No**

If you consider yourself as a key worker, please complete the table below:

Key worker categories	Exact role - please explain your job e.g. Nurse
Health and social care	
Education and childcare	
Key public services	
Local and national government	
Food and other necessary goods	
Public safety and national security	
Transport	
Utilities, communications and financial services	

If you have listed a specific role above, would you likely need your child in school to support you in your role during the period of school closure? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker or your child is classed as a vulnerable pupil, do you intend to send your child into the Academy from next Monday? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker, do you intend to send your child to school for the period of the Easter holiday? **Yes/No**