



Halfway Nursery Infant School

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Halfway

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🌐 www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

10am, 20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government has now clarified the definition of parents/carers who are 'Key Workers'.

'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.'

If you have not already done so, we need you to contact us ASAP today to inform us if you meet the criteria, inform us of your occupation and also confirm if you need to send your child to school for supervision from Monday.

Please email the office with the following information by 2pm at the very latest to allow us time to prepare -

Name of child/ren -

Name of parent/carer -

Parent/carer occupation -

Please contact us by emailing office@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk (or contacting Mrs Tatham on 0114 2482360 if you do not have access to the internet)

Please 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.

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.

More information for schools/parents can be found at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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

Finally, children who will be in school from Monday will be supervised by school staff at this stage and supervision will include accessing the learning packs and activities already prepared and shared with you via the home learning links. We are committed to helping look after the nation's children to make sure they are safe and also that parents/carers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response can continue, but we would also emphasise the government wishes for most children to be at home in order to protect everyone and help prevent the spread of this virus further.

Please do contact us with information about numbers as quickly as is possible.

Thank you for your continued support,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher