



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements from 23rd March: Provision for children of key workers: URGENT response needed:

As secondary age children, **the safest place for your child is at home** to enable social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We would expect most of our students, apart from those in the youngest years, to be able to stay at home and complete the work assigned on Classcharts. Following very recent guidance from the Government, we wanted to clarify provision from Monday 23rd March: **School is closed to all students as part of the social distancing required in the country at this time.**

There will be limited childcare available in school for students who fall into very specific categories, as stated below. It is important to emphasise that this will NOT be educational provision but, as stated in Government guidance is a limited programme designed to provide childcare supervision.

The key principles of the latest guidance are:

- 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.

Key workers

Government guidance says, 'many parents working in key worker 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'. **It is important to recognise that we have diminishing numbers of staff available in school, due to self-isolation or illness, so our resources are quite limited.**

A list of critical sectors can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As stated in my letter yesterday afternoon, please email admin@st-laurence.com by **12 noon this morning (Friday 20th March) if you need to take up one of these places from Monday.**

Vulnerable children

Government guidance says, '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.' We will be expecting students in these groups to be in school on Monday and we will be contacting families who have chosen not to take this up. These families should NOT use the admin email address above.

There is no requirement for parents to take up the offer of a school place

If your child is eligible for a childcare place at school from Monday and you wish to take this up, they should arrive by 9am in school uniform and have PE kit available.

We will keep you informed via the website as we work through other issues.

Kind regards

Mr Fergus Stewart