



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

Bellevue Road | Whitstable | CT5 1PX | T: 01227 931300 | E: tw_s_admin@swale.at
www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk | Headteacher: Mrs A M Gibson MA | @TheWhitSchool

20 March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Key Workers for whom school-based child care is the only option

To further clarify, 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 on the government website](#).

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. 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.

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 a 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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If you have not contacted the school to advise that your child will need school-based child care by 12:00 (noon) today we will not be able to provide this provision. If you have contacted the school we will be in contact with you to confirm when your child will be in school for safeguarding purposes. Please contact my PA Ms Possee to advise if you would need child care provision and haven't already contacted the school debbie.possee@swale.at 01227 931308.

Yours sincerely

Mrs AM Gibson
Headteacher



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