



FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pound Avenue
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3JA

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE ENFORCED SCHOOL CLOSURE

Thank you for your patience whilst we have absorbed the information provided to us by the government this morning relating to provision of **childcare for vulnerable children, or children of parents/carers who are critical to the COVID-19 response, or who work in critical sectors, and who cannot keep their child safe at home.**

The government have directed that:

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.

There is further information below:

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

Guidance for schools is below:

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

This guidance includes the definitions of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access our limited offer of childcare. Please read it carefully to be sure whether your child **clearly** meets the criteria.

You will need to provide evidence such as a work badge, contract or payslip, or written confirmation from your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If there is any doubt, we will refuse a place until there is unquestionable evidence to support your application, either from your employer or from subsequent government guidance as it is

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published. We do not have capacity to provide any form of appeals process and the decisions of the headteacher will be final.

If you believe you meet any of the 'critical worker' or 'vulnerable' criteria then please complete the form found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9PTQX73> . Applications need to be with the school by 9am on the day before childcare is required. We will then contact you to discuss your application, confirm your eligibility and explore other possible childcare options.

Once your eligibility is confirmed, you will receive further information about precisely what sessions are available, the process for booking them and our expectations around the provision.

Our childcare offer is entirely dependent on the number of staff we have available on the day and may be withdrawn at any point. We will let you know the day before if we are unable to honour a booking that you have already made.

Further to this, in the event of oversubscription, we will give higher priority to those families where both parents / a single parent are eligible. We will then consider the families where only one parent is eligible.

Thank you for your continued support and working in partnership with us during this incredibly challenging time.

Robert Staples
Headteacher