

Rationale for opening to vulnerable and key worker children from the Secondary Department - part of the St. Nicholas School Covid-19 Expansion Plan

Following the government announcement about the closure of schools from the 23rd March 2020 we have continued to offer a childcare service for extremely vulnerable children and the children of parents who are key workers.

From the 23rd March, the school has operated a childcare system for a specific group of pupils in the secondary department with the highest priority, based upon our risk assessment:

- The group consists of 8 pupils at most. These pupils are split into 2 'bubble' groups of four pupils (with staff), according to needs, ability and the type of care needed. These groups of pupils stay together throughout the day to reduce the potential for mixing with other people and potential transmission of the coronavirus. These pupils were selected as being the highest priority group of pupils according to our risk assessment and in consultation with parents, carers and social workers.
- Numbers do not exceed 4 children in a room, in line with other Kent special schools.
- Sufficient staffing is in place to ensure safety and operates on the minimum number of adults to allow this, in order to reduce numbers of people in the building.
- The groups use the largest rooms in the secondary department, so enable social distancing, as far as possible.
- All pupils have lunch in the dinner hall. From the 1st June this will be happening at 12.20. The tables in the dinner hall are spread out evenly to provide social distancing and a 2m spaced queuing system has been laid out.
- There is a rota for staff. These staff groups are becoming more consistent and they are working effectively together to provide stimulation throughout the day.
- The pupils are met at the front door by the staff at the start of the day and then brought to the entrance, when the school day has finished. This will limit the number of different people entering the school building. People collecting or dropping of pupils will need to observe social distancing (as laid out the St. Nicholas School Return to school expansion plan and risk assessment).
- Cleaning occurs throughout the day in all areas that the group use.