

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unity Academy will be closed from today until further notice to all students other than those who are considered vulnerable or families where both parents are key workers. The government sent out the definitive list of key workers at midnight last night. At Unity Academy we need to help ensure key workers are able to carry out their duties to keep us safe and supported across the country. If both parents are key workers, we will offer childcare and schooling facilities. Also if you are a lone parent who is a key worker and who has no other support, we will provide the same facilities.

However, to help us securely and sustainably provide these services then we need to be sure that if only one parent is a key worker then the other parent will provide childcare, perhaps working from home. Children should only be in school if there is no other option available.

If your child is old enough to do so, they should look after themselves at home and not come to school. As per the government advice here:

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 education 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.

The list of key workers was included in the survey sent out earlier today, thank you to those who have responded to this. We have a full list of vulnerable students and colleagues have made contact with families who are eligible to ensure they are aware provision is in place. Please do not assume your child qualifies as a vulnerable student – contact will be made by a member of staff in the academy to confirm that you qualify under these arrangements.

Those parents who provided the information in the online form ([link here](#)) today will be able to send children on Monday. We will review this information on Monday and it may be that if you do not qualify, we ask you not to bring your child into school on Tuesday. We have to ensure safe staffing numbers and as such will need to follow the guidance carefully, in particular the notion that children should stay at home if at all possible to do so. Please be aware that if places are not available due to staffing shortages, a place may need to be found at an alternative school.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

S. Cooke

Mr S Cooke
Headteacher