

Dear Parents and Carers,

The scientific advice states that schools are safe for a **small** number of children to continue attending but it is essential that most children stay away to help slow the spread. The schools have been asked to remain open to help ensure that the NHS and essential supply services can continue to meet the increasing demands of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government, though clear on what is classed as a key worker, have also provided some useful principles to support the process of organising child care, with a key one being as follows;

"If it is at all possible for children to be at home, they should be".

The government have now released details regarding classification of key workers. These key workers 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>

If you believe that your job/role is covered by this list, please email school on parents@gorsehillprimary.co.uk .

School will then contact you to discuss your request.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the following prior to any requests for child care provision taking place.

As a school, we have to consider a range of issues as part of our risk assessment. One key factor that we have needed to consider is the number of pupils we can cater for, given that there is still a responsibility for everyone to ensure that "children are not mixing socially in a way that continues to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults."

Furthermore, given that we have a duty of care and responsibility to our staff, we must also consider how we can provide skeleton staffing so as to reduce the risk of any virus spreading within our staff body, especially as they are vital to the success of any ongoing childcare provision offered by us.

We must be strict on numbers that we can cater for and we will not be able to offer places to everyone. In the course of our communication with those of you wanting a place today, we will be asking for your support in considering all options and ask that if you have an adult at home working at this time, that

you do opt to keep your child at home to ensure that those pupils and families most in need of this provision can access it. We will be prioritising places to children where BOTH parents are key workers or a single parent key worker and will then review each request thereafter on an individual basis to provide as much support as possible to each family.

In summary, the guidance states that the following principles be applied:

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.

We thank you for your ongoing support and understanding at this very challenging time.

Many thanks

The School Leadership Team