



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Critical Worker Update

In light of the Government guidance changing from Key Worker to Critical Worker and amendments to the Critical Worker list, we now need to ask you – Is your work critical to the COVID-19 response?

The amended guidance now states that schools should have the fewest number of pupils/staff in attendance as possible and parents/carers should also do everything they can to ensure that their children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults. Parents should only use the Critical Worker provision as a very last resort; it is designed for children whose parents simply can't continue the national effort without it. It is irresponsible to send your child to school if there is a way, however inconvenient, you could feasibly keep them at home at this time.

We may have parents who aren't currently Critical Workers but are moved to or take on roles as Critical Workers in the future. In such cases, we may need to reprioritise parents accessing this childcare.

We have found that some employers have been very flexible in their approach to changes in shift patterns, working from home etc. **The overarching principle from the guidance is that every child who can safely stay at home should do so.**

If you have been notified that you can bring your child to school on Monday and believe that your role is still critical, please do so. For those of you in non-front-line roles, we will require proof from your employer by 3.00pm on Monday 23rd March 2020 that your specific role is critical to the response to COVID-19. If you have had a change of circumstances and no longer require the emergency provision, please contact the school as soon as possible. Please note that school will be open to eligible pupils from the school's usual opening time, to the usual closing time. Childcare will be withdrawn to any parent who does not adhere strictly to these timings. Should your role be so critical that you cannot adhere to these timings (e.g. front-line NHS worker/distribution driver), you must contact the Headteacher directly outlining the reasons why and the school will try to provide some additional flexibility. There will need to be compelling evidence for you to be granted such a request.

Finally, it is important that your contact details are up to date and that the school office can contact you in the event of an emergency. If your child shows symptoms, you or a nominated person will need to collect them and isolate them immediately.

Thank you for the role you are playing in saving lives and protecting the vulnerable and elderly of our society during this national emergency. We will continue to keep the school open as long as we can to assist you in this effort.

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

Yours sincerely,
Lesley Fitton
CEO



You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response.

If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.

