



## Merley First School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian

I am writing to share with you the arrangements for children eligible to continue with supervised study at Merley First School

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

The government this morning has announced the key workers list. This can be found at the following link:

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

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

Guidance for parents can be found here:

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

**WIMBORNE**  
Academy Trust



Allenbourn Middle School Colehill First School Emmanuel Middle School Hayeswood First School Hillside First School Lockyer's Middle School  
Merley First School Queen Elizabeth's School St John's First School St Michael's Middle School Verwood First School Witchampton First School

Many parents may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

Students attending school will not be taught lessons in the normal format, they will largely access the same work as those children working from home and social distancing will be applied where possible.

To allow us to coordinate our provision from Monday, please complete the form attached to the bottom of this letter and return it to the school as soon as possible but by Monday 9am at the latest. If you have already completed this you do not need to do it again. Please pass to Reception or email to [office@merleyfirstschool.net](mailto:office@merleyfirstschool.net).

Many thanks for your support with this and we hope that things will go back to normal as quickly as is possible.

Kind regards

# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

## Key Worker Information

I confirm that I am classified as a key worker **and my child will be attending school from Monday 23 March.**

I understand that the school will be offering an alternative educational provision as current circumstances do not allow for a normal teaching timetable.

Signed :

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<b>FORENAME</b>	
<b>SURNAME</b>	
<b>OCCUPATION</b>	
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	
<b>STUDENT'S NAME</b>	
<b>STUDENTS CLASS</b>	

Please return by 9am Friday 20th March:

- To the school office
- Or email [office@merleyfirstschool.net](mailto:office@merleyfirstschool.net)