

15 May 2020

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Principal: Ms Siobhan Hearne

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Childcare provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable students**

As you are aware, despite the easing of some lockdown restrictions, secondary schools remain closed to most students. This is because the 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.**

That is why the Government has continued to ask parents and carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked secondary schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

### **Which groups of students are being offered childcare supervision?**

Whilst we recognise that there has been some easing of the lockdown restrictions, it remains the case that only specific groups of students should be offered childcare supervision.

This would be students who fall into two specific groups of students:

- Children whose parents or carers are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home (critical workers)
- Children who are vulnerable

Therefore, it remains that only these children will be able to come to school, until the scientific advice changes.

### **What is the criteria for a critical worker?**

The Government definition of a critical worker 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>

### **What to do if I am a critical worker and I want to send my child to school to attend the childcare provision?**

Please email [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk) and in your email we will need to know:

- The name of each parent/carer
- The role that each parent/carer has
- The name and contact details including the address and telephone number of your employer
- The days that supervision may be required (this may vary depending on shift patterns/days of working)
- A revised emergency contact name and number if the one that we have on our system is not currently valid (for example, if it is the details of someone who is self-isolating.)

***Please note: if you have already provided us with any of the information above, it is not necessary to do so again. We just need any updated information and in particular, what your required days may be.***

## **When will I receive confirmation that my child can attend school during this period of time?**

We will review your request and contact you to confirm that you have a place as requested.

### **Things to consider**

Please note that:

- There is no obligation to send your child into school if you are a critical worker. The advice is clear: there is a lower risk of the virus spreading if children stay at home. You may already have someone at home who can look after your child or you may, age pending, prefer them to stay at home and undertake their home learning there.
- There will be no penalties applied regarding absence for your child if you wish them to stay at home.
- Any students coming in to school will not be 'taught': they will be kept safe and be provided with the same work as other students who are learning from home.
- The provision will be offered from 8.00am – 3.00pm. Students do not need to stay for all of this time if they do not need to.
- Any student who is attending will need to be provided with a packed lunch as we do not currently have catering facilities on site.
- School uniform is not required.

We will liaise with those who care for our vulnerable students separately.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

Thank you for all that you are doing at this time of national crisis.

Yours sincerely

*Ms. S. Heame*

**Ms Siobhan Hearne  
Principal**