



# THE HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr J McDonald BEd (Hons) NPQH

*The Diocese of Shrewsbury In Partnership with Halton Borough Council*

Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear parents/Carers,

You will have seen from the Government news briefings that the Government are asking schools to **close on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020** for the foreseeable future to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

**Key workers** will be supported by allowing their children to come to schools as well as those children on EHCP plans and other vulnerable groups. (We will contact you directly if your child is in this group.)

This means those important “key workers” will be able to get on with the job of protecting life and keeping the supply chain going. This means that vulnerable children will be supported by school during a difficult time.

This is unprecedented and I am sure. Like me, you will agree we all want to do our bit and support. There are no easy answers, this is a time of coming together and thinking how we can do our bit. The government has now “listed” the key workers so I am asking you to let me know if you consider yourself a key worker.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And 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.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

**Please complete the form as quickly as you can.**

Thanks for your help – please have a look at the [website](#) for more information on COVID-19 and what to do.

It is hugely important we support each other at this time and your full cooperation and support is appreciated. Sincerely,

John McDonald

Headteacher

