



Brentwood Ursuline

Convent High School

20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

The government has now published its guidance regarding childcare for key workers.

Here are the general principles at the beginning of the guidance:

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.

The list of key workers is very long, so here is the link for you to check it yourselves:

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



[Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision)

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social ...

www.gov.uk

Rather than engage in a rushed and burdensome exercise to establish which parents are included in this list, I propose the following:

- School will be open on Monday 23rd March for staff. From Tuesday we will run a staff rota with a skeleton presence in school each day

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Telephone: 01277 227156 . Facsimile. 01277 229454
E-mail: admin@buchs.co.uk
Headteacher: Dr R. J. Wilkin

- If you are within the government's definition of 'key worker', you can send your child to BUCHS on Monday, where they will be supervised in computer rooms to carry out the work already set by teachers for distance learning
- If you are a key worker who wants to send your child to BUCHS on Monday, please contact the school via admin@buchs.co.uk by 8am on Monday morning, so that we expect your child's arrival. This is important from a **safeguarding** point of view. Please also return the attached form either with your child or via email to admin@buchs.co.uk before 8.00 am on Monday 23rd March.
- Students sent to school must arrive between **8.30 and 9 am**
- All students coming to school must be in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM. This again is important for safeguarding, so that BUCHS students are easily identified
- A very limited selection of food will be provided at lunchtime
- Students will not be permitted to leave the school until 3.30pm. Permission to depart earlier must be arranged by the parents with the school in the usual way
- Students should bring headphones suitable for plugging into school computers (i.e. with a mini-phono connection)
- No student should attend who is subject to isolation because of a family member displaying symptoms of Covid-19
- No student should attend who has been self-isolating because of an underlying condition
- No student should attend who displays symptoms of any unwellness (not just symptoms of Covid-19): we will not necessarily have our usual healthcare facilities available
- Parents are responsible for checking travel arrangements to and from school. Please remember there are no contract buses
- No student must be left at school awaiting pick-up beyond 4pm. Parents must make suitable travel arrangements to enable students to get home safely after leaving school

Once we have established the demand for supervision, we will contact the parents concerned and describe the ongoing arrangements.

Please consider carefully the first point made above by the government about the desirability of children remaining at home if at all possible.

Please consider carefully the risks involved in students travelling alone to school on reduced public transport and balance those against the risk of children staying at home.

Please bear in mind that this is effectively a child-minding service, with access to school computers for work: students will not have lessons.

Lastly, if your child is in isolation at the moment but has belongings in school, please wait until the end of the isolation period and then contact the school to arrange for

items to be collected. On no account should students or relatives break an isolation period in order to come to school to collect belongings.

Thank you all for your considerable support as we work through this situation. Please be patient with us as we put in place arrangements which are new to us and untested.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Wilkin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dr R. J. Wilkin,
Headteacher**

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