

BISHOP HEBER HIGH SCHOOL

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20th March 2020

Children of Key Workers

This morning the Department for Education released a document outlining who key workers are and what provision of care should be put in place by schools.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide **emergency child care** for a limited number of children. We are therefore trying to ascertain the number of children whose parents are **critical** to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home or such setting. **The guidance states where there is one key worker in the family, the school will do its best to accommodate childcare provision.**

Government advice and guidance received overnight 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.**

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and the School will **remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

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 our community. We understand that at this point of time transport for those children who live in Cheshire West local authority will be provided. **The School will not be able to offer transport to other areas such as Wrexham or Shropshire.**

Could I stress that the school will not be a drop in facility and if in the future a place is needed then the application process will need to take place. I appreciate that this is a very difficult time for all families and as a school we will continue to support all students through distance learning.

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. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Critical workers include NHS staff, emergency services, school staff, farmers and food retail workers, who need to be able to go out to work (see below for more details).



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If you are an essential key worker and you have no other option but to send your child to school, please complete the survey as soon as possible on the link below - **3 p.m. today latest**

Thank you for your continued support



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