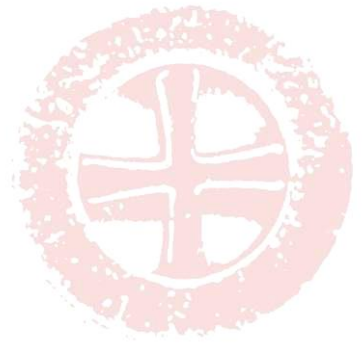


# Upham Primary School

## Church of England (Aided)

Upham Street, Upham, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 1JD  
Telephone: (01489) 860355 Fax: (01489) 860776

E-mail: [adminoffice@upham.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@upham.hants.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr David Woolley, B.Ed. (Hons)



Monday 23 March 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope the children have started this period of closure calmly and peacefully. I write regarding the need for the school to provide for key workers and the most vulnerable. You will remember last week I wrote to say that a viable number had not come forward. Such is the pace of change at the moment in the context of new, updated official guidance, that this situation has moved and we are planning to reopen for children who are vulnerable and children of key workers tomorrow (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>). I have already been in contact with those families with whom I had some conversations last week and if I spoke to you today you do not need to contact me further, I'm already expecting your children tomorrow.

The DfE guidance is clear, *'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be'*.

**If you intend to contact us, please confirm your job role. You may be required to supply a letter from your employer confirming that you work in a critical sector for the COVID-19 response.**

Updated Guidance published over the weekend also clarifies the position (summarised and quoted below) regarding who school will re-open for. If you would like to request for your child to attend school from tomorrow, please email us at [adminoffice@upham.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@upham.hants.sch.uk) or phone the office number 01489 860355.

### ***How are Key Workers Defined?***

*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. Critical Sectors include:*

- *Health & Social Care – frontline staff, part of the supply chain, distributors of medicines & protective equipment*
- *Education & Childcare*
- *Key Public Services – justice, management of deceased, broadcasters*

- *Local & National Government*
- *Food and other necessary Goods – processing, distribution, sale, delivery*
- *Public Safety & National Security – Police, armed forces, fire rescue, crime agency, prisons*
- *Transport*
- *Utilities, Communication & Financial Services*

*This list can be explored in more detail at:*

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

***Is it compulsory for key workers to accept their place of offer?***

*No*

*Many parents working in these critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.*

***How are Vulnerable Children Defined?***

*Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.*

*Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.*

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school/college in consultation with the local authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school/college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.*

*We know that schools may also want to support other children who are vulnerable where they are able to do so. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.*

Regards,

David Woolley, Headteacher