



## VALENTINES HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr R D Laws B.A. (Hons)

20th March 2020

Dear parents,

This morning, the school has been provided with further guidance regarding the closure of educational settings. Please see some detail below:

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and **asked schools to 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 wider society.

Children with at least **one parent or carer** who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required.

**This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.**

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.**

*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.*

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:

### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Cranbrook Road  
Ilford Essex  
IG2 6HX

Tel: 020 8554 3608

Fax: 020 8518 2621

Email: [mail@valentines-sch.org.uk](mailto:mail@valentines-sch.org.uk)

[www.valentines-sch.org.uk](http://www.valentines-sch.org.uk)



**Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

**Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies.

**Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

**Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

**Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. If you fall in to one of these categories and would like your child to attend school, please fill in your details using the link below if possible by 12.00pm today.

<https://forms.gle/qdsV3LBodTkw8uSS6>

I would like to apologise for the short notice and quick turnaround required, but we have only been given the list this morning and we are due to be open for key students on Monday!

Yours sincerely



Mr R Laws  
Headteacher