

Simon A Wood – Executive Headteacher

Friday 20th March 2020

COVID19 – KEY WORKERS – SCHOOL CLOSURE AND CHILDCARE PROVISION - UPDATE 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Late last night, the government released information about the key workers' children for whom Copperfield will stay open. I can only apologise again for the lateness of decision making at this time.

Whilst Team Copperfield, as part of REAch2, is here to support both you as parents and carers of frontline services and your children, we need to make sure that we are acting appropriately at this time.

I want to refer you to a section of the government guidance that appears **before** the key worker list.

**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 distancing.
And the most recent scientific advice on how 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.
That is why the government has asked parents and carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible,
and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

It also goes on to say, under the key principles of the guidance, before any mention of key workers:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

We shared the criteria with you first thing this morning – thank you for your support and co-operation with this.

I do appreciate that for some parents and carers you are not necessarily aware if you are required to work at this time.

If at a later stage your circumstances change, please complete the attached form and return it to us.

You may use the post box at the front entrance, or scan and email the form to office@copperfieldacademy.org

At Copperfield, we have very recently demonstrated that we now are a 'learning community', and we will pull together to support this effort to keep our society safe. Therefore, we will remain open for the children who need it, or who are vulnerable, but I strongly urge you to think very carefully of whether this is necessary for you. I also need to make sure that our staff team is as well-protected as key workers themselves, all of whom have families and many of whom have children of their own.

I know that this time causes a great deal of unrest and anxiety, and as a result, we can all be a little less tolerant than we would be typically. We all need to take care to choose all our actions, and words, carefully. I know that we will all do our best to support each other through this time and I thank you for your ongoing support for me, my team and the wider school.

**Finally, please know that any/all conversations today, held with you, around our vulnerable children stand – we expect them all to be in our provision from Monday, or as soon as your self-isolation has ended.
We will be in daily contact – either 'phone or face-to-face - with any family who we are already supporting who do not attend.**

Please do contact us if we can help you at all.

Best wishes,

Simon A Wood