



**THE MILTON  
KEYNES ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/carers

## **INDEFINITE CLOSURE OF THE MILTON KEYNES ACADEMY**

As you are aware, the school will be closed for an indefinite period to most pupils as instructed by the Department for Education. We are however open to the children/wards of those identified by the government as **“KEY WORKERS”**. **Please note that the very strong advice from government is that as many pupils as possible should be cared for at home throughout the period of closure.**

The full definition of a key worker is available on the Cabinet Office website, and in the attached document. In summary, it is defined as those who work in:

### **Health and social care**

Frontline health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition, it includes those working in supply chains including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

Nursery, teaching staff and social workers.

### **Key public services**

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

### **Local and national government**

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.

### **Food and other necessary goods**

Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food.

### **Public safety and national security**

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.

### **Transport**

Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.



### **Utilities, communication and financial service**

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.

If your child/ward falls into the category identified above, school is open to them at the normal times during term time. This means that they may attend as usual from Monday 23 March 2020 until Friday 03 April 2020 during normal school hours. If you are a parent or carer in this category, you must decide whether you will keep your child(ren) at home or send them to school. In order to properly safeguard pupils, they must either attend full time or not at all. The usual absence procedures will be followed for those pupils whose parents/carers choose to send them to school in order to ensure that all children are properly accounted for.

If you are a key worker and choose to send your child(ren) to school, please email the school on [info@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk) and provide the following information as soon as possible, so that we can plan appropriate provision:

*My child/ward will be attending school normally during the period of closure because their parent falls under the definition of **KEY WORKER** as laid out on the Cabinet Office website*

- *Name of child/ward*
- *Year and form group*
- *Name of parent/carers*
- *Occupation of parent/carers*
- *Employer of parent/carers*

We will acknowledge receipt of your email and you should not send your child(ren) to school on Monday unless you have received confirmation from the school. This is essential to ensure that all children are in appropriate care with parents/carers or at school.

If your child/ward does not fall into this category, arrangements for their remote learning at home will be sent to you shortly.

Thank you for your cooperation during these difficult times for us all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona'.

**Fiona Seddon**  
Principal



### **The full definition of a key worker**

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 to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support head teachers 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. And 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.
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.