



20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We wanted to send you this letter to reassure you that we are working our very hardest to support pupils at this difficult time. As you will be aware schools across England have been ordered to close. The Prime Minister in his press conference on Wednesday evening said "after schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon, they will remain closed for the vast majority of pupils until further notice."

For all pupils, attending St John Paul II Multi-Academy schools provides a sense of safety and comfort, as well as structure and routine. We are saddened that most pupils will not be able to continue education on site.

The government, in its guidance for parents, stresses that the safest action for pupils is for them to remain at home, stating:

'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should do, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'

It is important to note that we have a duty of care to protect our staff to ensure that social distancing is in place and we are keeping the size of any group in school to a minimum.

There are some children, classed as being more 'vulnerable' who are able to attend; to clarify, these are children with a social worker, those with Child Protection or Child in Need Plans, Looked After Children and those with an Educational Health Care Plan. We have contacted these families individually. Again parents/carers should keep children at home if this is considered to be the safest option.

Provision will be provided for those children whose parents who have been categorised as 'Key Workers' (see attached guidance):

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm\\_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk)

Before we can accommodate any pupils, we will need to ensure we have accurate resources to fulfil health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Therefore we require those parents who feel they require provision to contact schools by 1pm today at the latest, preferably via [enquiry@email](mailto:enquiry@email) at the school to:

- Inform school that they are on the key worker list
- Provide a supporting letter from their employer
- Notification that they have no alternative childcare

Although not a requirement, as the importance of social distancing and minimal contact has been consistently emphasised, we would request that in homes with two parents, both parents fall in the key worker category.

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**St. John Paul II Multi Academy**

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E: [enquiry@sjp2.net](mailto:enquiry@sjp2.net) | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: [johnpaulii.co.uk](http://johnpaulii.co.uk)

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We really appreciate you bearing with us under these exceptional circumstances. I hope that you understand that these are very complicated implications and as a result, until we have all the information, we cannot finalise arrangements and therefore it may not be possible for us to be ready to provide safe provision on Monday. Parents should also that it may be not possible to provide wraparound at all schools for identified children from next week. However, each school will be operating their normal school day hours but obviously not the normal curriculum timetable for the foreseeable future.

Please bear with this; as we will be working hard to resolve these arrangements as soon as parents and carers have provided schools with the necessary information.

As stated in previous letters teachers are busy planning work for children to complete at home, the majority of this work will be available from the end of the day today. Arrangements for this will be communicated by each individual school locally.

In the meantime, I am extremely grateful to the commitment and dedication of the staff in our schools in their determination to support the country's fight against the coronavirus threat. Please keep them all in your prayers over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely



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Catholic Senior Executive Lead



T Cotter  
Executive Principal



K Crowley  
Head of School

