

Staffordshire County Council

School closure principles (dated 20 March 2020)

Following the release of government guidance last night, for [schools, colleges and local authorities](#) and [parents and carers](#), schools and settings are busy making arrangements for Monday.

The approach we are taking is based upon guidance and the following principles.

WHERE POSSIBLE CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD STAY AT HOME

- If children can stay safely at home, then **parents are asked to keep their children at home**
- All **children and parents in households with COVID-19 symptoms must stay at home** (and follow government guidance on [self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing](#))

CARE in SCHOOLS and SETTINGS

- The guidance is clear that all schools, colleges and registered early years/childcare settings, are expected to **remain open to provide care**
- Care will be **limited to children of critical workers and vulnerable children who absolutely need care**
- Critical workers need **care only on those days that they need to work**
- Registered early years/childcare settings, including childminders, will provide **care during their opening times**
- Schools will provide **care during the school day**
- Individual **schools will make their own arrangements for before and after school care** and continue to charge parents

FROM MONDAY

- The guidance is not exhaustive, so **critical workers will be largely self-selecting** based upon the trust and goodwill of parents
- Admit children, but **request workers who are critical to the COVID-19 response to provide evidence** of their work (e.g., ID or confirmation from an employer that you are a critical worker based on government guidance) during the first week, if possible

- **Children with at least one parent or carer** who are identified as critical workers can be cared for at a school or setting, as necessary
- **School transport will continue** to run until schools can notify the Transport Team, student.transport@staffordshire.gov.uk, which children will not be receiving care in school and, therefore, will no longer need transport

As the guidance and situation evolves, we will **all need to stay flexible** in our response to need.

We remain in contact with the Department for Education and further information and guidance, including on safeguarding and school meals, will be shared when available.