



## St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**  
Assistant Headteacher: **Lesley Carneiro**

20 March 2020 (AM)

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Arrangements for vulnerable children and children of key workers, during the school closure**

We have finally received guidance from the government about maintaining educational provision during the school closures. This guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The guidance is very clear that **“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. 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.”**

However, schools are being asked to provide care for a limited number of children who are considered vulnerable or whose parents are “critical to the COVID-19 response,” **and** “cannot be safely cared for at home.”

#### **Children of Key workers**

Key workers have been defined, by the government, as some of those who work in the following areas:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local and National Government
- Food and Other Necessary Goods
- Public and National Security
- Transport
- Utilities and Financial Services

“If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.”





We will be applying the criteria set out in the government document strictly, when deciding which children will be able to access provision.

We will prioritise the children of single parents who work in these areas, or households where **BOTH** parents work in these areas, **AND where no other childcare arrangements are available.**

Please only request a place if you genuinely meet the criteria; we do not want to offend or upset people by denying them places, if we can avoid it.

If you meet the criteria, and want your child to attend school during the closure, please request a place by e-mail at [admin@stmp.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmp.camden.sch.uk)

**Please, only use this e-mail address.**

**OR come to the school office with your work ID and register for a place by 12 midday.**

You must provide the following information in your e-mail:

- Your child/children's name/s and class/es
- Your name/s (*both parents, in a two parent household*)
- Your occupation and employer (*both parents, in a two parent household*)
- Confirmation that you have contacted your employer and have been told that your specific role has been deemed "necessary for the continuation of this essential public service."
- Which days you will need childcare, as you have no other alternatives
- Whether you will require a school lunch, or will provide a packed lunch, for your child/children

#### **Vulnerable Children**

Priority will also be given to children who are subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans, Child In Need (CIN) Plans and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We are contacting parents/carers of children in these groups, directly.

**If your child is not in one of the above categories, we cannot offer them a place and they must remain at home throughout the school closure.**

**We realise it is very short notice but we must receive your e-mail request / sign up at the office by midday today, Friday 20 March.**

When we know the number of children requiring places we will make the appropriate arrangements for next week and will contact parents/carers later today with details.

We will do our best to provide the service at St Mary and St Pancras CE School but please be aware that we may work with the other schools in the local area to provide a combined service, depending on numbers of children and availability of staff.

Thank you for your continuing support and understanding in this difficult time,

Ms J Belton: Headteacher