

23 March 2020

01924 668936
enquiries@accordmat.org
www.accordmat.org

Emergency Care for Eligible Pupils

On Friday 20 March, the Government released specific details relating to the eligibility for emergency care provision for pupils who are vulnerable, and who are the children of 'key workers'. A copy of these details were provided by the Trust in a letter issued to all parents / carers on the same day. Key points in relation to the Government's directive on emergency care provision for eligible pupils were very clear:

- *'If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Many parents who are 'key workers' may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.*
- *Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.'*

In issuing the survey to parents / carers on Friday 20 March, whilst the majority of responses were clearly legitimate requests for emergency care. It was extremely disappointing to find that a significant number of parents / carers were requesting emergency care when they were either not eligible to do so, or where they were clearly able to ensure that their child was kept safely at home.

The Trust is in full support of the Government's strategy in relation to Covid-19 to provide the necessary emergency care provision for vulnerable pupils and 'key workers'. However, as Chief Executive Officer, I assume overall responsibility for the health & safety of all pupils and staff, and as such I must ensure that we have the absolute minimum number of pupils attending an academy site in order to lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

I must therefore ask all parents to be understanding of the situation, and not to place an un-necessary burden on our already limited resources, placing pupils and staff at greater risk. Please, only pursue emergency care provision if:

- You meet the eligibility criteria as a 'key worker', and there is absolutely no other alternative for your children to be cared for at home, or remain at home safely i.e. there are no other adults who are at home, are not 'key workers', or who can work from home as is now being actively encouraged nationally.
- As a 'key worker', you only seek emergency care provision during the period when you are at your place of work.

In conclusion, this is clearly a very difficult time and in seeking to ensure that safest possible provision is in place, please could I ask that you complete the following declaration form.

Yours sincerely

Alan Warboys
Chief Executive Officer

Name of Pupil	
Year Group	
Reason For Eligibility (Please tick)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable Child	<i>All details are already available to the academy (pupil with EHCP and / or social worker allocation).</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Key Worker	<p>What is your role (and employer)?</p> <p>Please ensure that you have provided evidence of your role.</p> <p>Parents/carers can provide evidence via a picture, scan or photocopy. Typical examples of evidence of role are warrant cards, NHS cards or payslips which show the name of the employer.</p>
Parental Declaration for 'Key Workers' – please only tick one option in each section	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a full-time key worker (as set out in the Government guidelines) - or, <input type="checkbox"/> I am a part-time key worker (as set out in the Government guidelines) - or, <input type="checkbox"/> I am a key worker (as set out in the Government guidelines) but will only need emergency care if called upon by my employer.	
<input type="checkbox"/> In pursuing emergency care provision, I can confirm that there are no other adults who are at home, are not 'key workers', and / or who can work from home - or, <input type="checkbox"/> In pursuing emergency care provision, I can confirm that there is no possibility that my child can remain at home safely.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that my child's behaviour must be commensurate with the expectations of the academy, and that the academy may where necessary apply sanctions for poor behaviour in line with the behaviour policy.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand and accept that in seeking emergency care provision, the academy is not in a position to ensure the same social distancing / isolation arrangements that would be available in the home.	
Trust Disclaimer	
<p>In line with Government guidance, and limited resources, emergency care provision will not mirror the national curriculum. The academy will however offer the best possible provision for pupils to make each day a worthwhile experience.</p> <p>The academy has the right to withdraw provision for parents / carers who do not meet the eligibility criteria, and who do not satisfactorily complete the declaration requirements.</p> <p>The academy has the right to request that pupils remain at home if they are displaying any potential symptoms that may relate to the virus.</p>	
Parental Signature	
Date	