

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you in our respective roles as Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and also as Executive Director for Children's Services.

The spread of the coronavirus has created a world-wide public health emergency. Recently the Government announced a wide range of measures to reinforce social distancing in an attempt to slow down the spread of the virus. A key part of this has been only allowing children of key workers, those with a named social worker and those with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) to attend school. All other children and young people should now stay away from school. Allowing these key groups of children and young people to attend school will help critical services to function, help to keep young people safe and in a routine and relieve some of the pressures on families.

We are all learning on a daily basis as the situation develops and the changes to your child's education raises a number of questions. We have tried to address some of these below:

Am I a key worker?

The government has identified these and the list is available [here](#).

Should I send my child to school if I am a key worker?

You should only consider sending your child to school if there are no other safe alternatives for their care. If there are, then you should use these other safe alternatives, but you should not ask a relative to look after your child if the relative is elderly or in one of the at risk groups. Similarly, you should not send your child to school if they are showing any signs or symptoms of the coronavirus.

If none of the alternatives are available and your child is not showing any signs or symptoms of having the coronavirus, then you would be eligible to send your child to school if you are key worker. Only one parent or carer needs to be a key worker for your child to attend school.

Is my school open?

You should contact your child's school to find out. A very small number of schools have closed, but they have linked with others to ensure that provision is available.

If I am not a key worker and if my child does not fall into one of the categories which allows them to attend school, then can I send my child to school?

No. You should keep your child at home. Your child's school may make arrangements to provide work and the Government is also making arrangements with the BBC to provide resources for children. The Government has provided advice about staying at home and we have published this on the council's website.

Will my child sit statutory tests and examinations this year?

The government has cancelled all statutory tests and examinations this year. However, your child will be awarded examination grades based on a combination of mock examinations, predicated grades, work which has already been completed and what they have previously achieved.

If my child stays at home, then can they congregate with friends or see each other in parks etc?

You should keep your child at home and not let them invite friends over or congregate in parks. This is to ensure their safety and also the safety of others.

The Department for Education is working with the BBC to make learning materials available to young people and there are already many resources available online. Alternatively, your school may have a learning platform where work is being set for them.

We appreciate this is a worrying time for parents and carers and you may have questions. We have put together a dedicated section of our website to help answer these questions and to direct you to trusted sources of information and support. Please visit: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

These are unprecedented times, but by working together we can help all of our children and young people safe and save lives.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Dale

Cllr Alex Dale
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Jane Parfremment
Executive Director Children's Services