



# George Fentham Endowed School

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[www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk](http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk)  
Mrs J Gaughan Head Teacher

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Coronavirus Update

We have now received further guidance from the Government with regards to **remaining open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

At George Fentham Endowed School we are currently planning to open from 8:45am to 3:30pm (normal school hours) from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for our vulnerable children and the children of key workers. The Base is also planning to open from 7:30am – 8:45am and 3:20pm to 6:30pm for these children. Please note you will need to make separate arrangements with The Base as this is not run by school.

Contact details: [www.thebasechildcare.co.uk](http://www.thebasechildcare.co.uk) 01675 443913

The Government's current position is that schools remain safe places for children but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the coronavirus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

We are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children – **children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot safely be cared for at home.**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors as listed below. **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. WE HAVE LIMITED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE THIS CARE AND WE ALL NEED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY TO ENSURE THAT THOSE FRONTLINE WORKERS WHO ABSOLUTELY NEED TO BE AT WORK CAN DO SO.**

The critical key sectors are as follows:

### Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.





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## Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

## Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

## Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

## Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

## Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

## Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

## Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil





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nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

As this list is far more extensive than school leaders were originally expecting we anticipate that we may well have a large number of our parents who work in the critical sectors. Therefore, in order to help us prioritise and to ensure that this additional support goes to those families that need it most, we will be looking, in the first instance, to offer places to families where either **both** parents work in a critical sector or a **sole** parent works in a critical sector. Please note parents may be required to provide evidence from their employer that they qualify as a key worker at this time.

## What to do next

If you think that you fall within the critical categories above, please can you complete the **Key Worker Registration Form** which is available on the school website and return it to the school office at [s73office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s73office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk) immediately. We will be unable to consider offering permanent places to those children who have not been registered. Once the information has been collated we will confirm permanent places from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. In order to allow us time to do this we will accept your child temporarily on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, but only if you have completed the Key Worker Registration Form.

May I please stress again – we have limited capacity to offer and we really need this help to go to our families that are at the frontline and need our support the most.

On behalf of all the Staff at George Fentham Endowed School we send you and your family our very best wishes as we face uncertain times ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Gaughan

Headteacher

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