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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update 5 – key worker children and children with needs

Many thanks for your patience and offers of support and thanks in these unprecedented times.

The government has now published the definition of key workers and we are attempting to compile a list of affected families so we can begin to plan and coordinate the care needed once staffing levels are confirmed.

The most recent scientific advice in how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading and to reduce risk to the most vulnerable in our society.**

St Mary's will continue to provide care for a limited number of children in due course. Please be patient as we ensure this is securely and safely provided for. This care will be for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot** be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with an EHC plan.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and this is the instruction if they are able to do so. Every child who **can** be safely cared for at home **should be**.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for care:

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- **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

- **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 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**

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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 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.

Please note that the care provided will look very different to the usual educational provision as it may not always be teachers who are providing this care. Your child will not be continuing their educational provision as before and you should not expect staff to provide this.

Therefore we are now asking you to follow the link below to complete a very short questionnaire that will facilitate our knowledge of what care is required.

<https://forms.gle/S8DQ1EwtmbN1p6UP7>

Please click on the link above to access the form.

This is only needed if your job falls into the categories above or you think you are a key worker and it is not listed.

Following on from this, further information will be sent to these families regarding the key worker childcare. This will not be available on Monday but will be available as soon as possible thereafter. We assure you this will be arranged once safe and secure provision has been finalised and staffing levels allow.

If your child has an EHCP plan or are involved with social services, you will be informed of the arrangements along with key worker parents and do not need to complete this form. We have your details and will be in touch in due course. Please be patient. **If your child can be safely kept at home, we strongly recommend you do so.** Please inform school via the info email account (info@greenfieldstmary.oldham.sch.uk) if you have elected to keep your child at home.

I would be most grateful if you could do this immediately.

With very best wishes,

Mrs S M Hall
Head Teacher

