



4th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Educational provision for the children of Critical Workers

I wrote to you on 31st December outlining the changes to the start of the new term, which are:

- All year groups will receive remote learning from Wednesday 6th January.
- Year 11 will return to school for face-to-face teaching from Monday 11th January.
- Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 will return to school for face-to-face teaching from Monday 18th January.

These arrangements remain in place unless Government guidance changes.

Critical workers

The school will be open from Wednesday 6th January to students whose parents are listed by the UK Government as critical workers – please see the attached guidance.

If you are a critical worker and want your child to attend school from *Wednesday 6th January*, please email Mrs Ruth Harrison at harrisonr@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk **by lunchtime tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January)** with the following information:

1. Name of your child.
2. Their Year Group.
3. Parent's name.
4. Critical worker role.
5. Proof that a parent is a critical worker. (This could be a photograph of your employment ID badge, a letter or email from your employer, a copy of your payslip or contract of employment.)

Vulnerable Students

If your child is identified as vulnerable we will be contacting you separately.

Free School meals

School will provide vouchers if your child is entitled to free school meals. We will send out information to you where relevant.

Rapid testing programme

We are committed to delivering this programme to as many students as possible for whom parents have given consent. We are finalising our plans and will send out more information in the next few days on how we intend to do this, including arrangements for consent.

Finally let me wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

Government Guidance on Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

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:

- Childcare
- Support and teaching staff
- Social workers
- Specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- Essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- Waste disposal sectors