



11th January 2021

Critical Worker Places

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you this morning to update you further on the position of allocating places to pupils in school.

From March to June, during the first lockdown, we averaged 3-6 pupils per day which was a combination of Key Workers and Vulnerable pupils. Last **week we received over 220 applications for Critical Worker places in school**. The guidance from the government was initially extremely broad, but this position was revised on Friday afternoon.

We have been asked to consider our operational capacity to deliver in school education with a maximum of 50% of normal numbers per class/Year group. At St. Michael's we have one classroom (one teacher) available **per year group with a maximum of 15 pupils**. The second teacher in each year group is responsible for live teaching to children remaining at home.

We have also been sent prioritised criteria for admitting pupils up to this limit and therefore, following submission of evidence for Critical Worker status, you will receive a call from the Office Team over the next couple of days to discuss your confirmed eligibility for places in school. Only one parent needs to qualify to apply for a critical worker place but where our capacity is limited, we will choose to prioritise those families where both parents are Critical workers.

Please find a copy of the prioritised list we will be working to:

1. **Vulnerable Pupils** – parents will have been contacted directly regarding eligible pupils.
2. **Health and social care**
 - a) staff working on the COVID 19 vaccination programme
 - b) staff who have frequent face-to-face contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care, mental health, urgent and emergency care and community settings.
 - c) those working in independent, voluntary and non-standard healthcare settings such as hospices, and community-based mental health or addiction service
 - d) laboratory, pathology and mortuary staff
 - e) those working for a sub-contracted provider of facilities services such as portering or cleaning
 - f) temporary, locum or 'bank' staff, including those working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme, students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients
 - g) frontline social care workers directly working with vulnerable people who need care and support irrespective of where they work (for example in hospital, people's own homes, day centres, or supported housing); or who they are employed by (for example local government, NHS, independent sector or third sector).
 - h) Those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.



3. **Education and childcare** – childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach.
4. **Public safety and national security** - This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, 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 and those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.
5. If schools have capacity, in line with their risk assessment, above this, will consider the **remaining categories to offer places.**
 - a. Management of deceased,
 - b. Religious staff,
 - c. Local and National government officers delivering key frontline services
 - d. Charities delivering frontline services
 - e. Key utilities, communication and financial workers eg water, road, rail, freight transport connected with EU transition, postal, IT services linked to COVID 19 response and financial services.
 - f. Food and other necessary goods: including food production, distribution, delivery and sales

We hope that you understand the very difficult position that school is in. If we are unable to offer your child a place in school, their name will be placed on a prioritised waiting list. Your children will be able to access their learning via Google drive. We will make recordings of live teaching available to all parents this week so that you are able to 'catch up' on any missed learning subject to your work commitments.

Please do keep in contact with your child's class teachers, if you have any further questions about accessing the planned learning.

Kind Regards

Becky Smith

Mrs B. Smith
Headteacher