



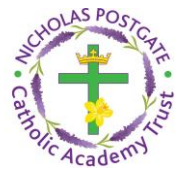
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Coronavirus update - school closure to most pupils

Dear Parents and Carers,

At this difficult time we want to thank you for your continued support and reassure you that, as a Catholic Trust, we are doing our utmost to support all of our children and families. As you will be aware, the government has instructed schools throughout the country **to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice**. Over the coming days, the Trust Phase 1 Response Plan will be rolled out and this initial phase will see all 26 school sites open to the students identified by Mr Williamson, the Education Secretary, on Wednesday 18th March.

As advised by the Government, 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 education provision.

The Government has defined those 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.

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 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.

Other Eligible Groups

School will also be open to children who have a social worker and children with an educational health and care plan.

The Government guidance clearly states that 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.**

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

School will be open at the usual times for these eligible children. We will have Breakfast Club next week from 7.30am. However we won't offer after school clubs next week. We will assess the need for these next week.

Lunches will be provided as usual, £2.10 for those who pay for lunch. Menu choices may need to differ.

Transport will also operate as usual next week.

To ensure that all children are safe, staff must be made aware if any adult, other than those school already knows, is picking a child up.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure - as you may have heard in the news - so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we are directed to do so by the Government.

All schools within Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trusty (NPCAT) have detailed plans in place to ensure that your child's education is disrupted as little as possible while they are unable to attend their usual lessons.

Teachers will continue to set work and maintain communication with students through the school's electronic platform. As a school, we are using Google Classroom and Marvellous Me to set work and communicate with pupils. A separate letter gives details for log ins.

Paper based activities have been sent to those children who indicated that they do not have access to ICT. These have a lot of activities so should last for a few weeks. New packs can be collected after the Easter break for those who are able to collect them.

I would expect all of our children to complete school work to ensure that progress is not hampered any more than necessary. You will be able to contact your class teacher through Google Classrooms. Those who do not have access to laptops for work, but can still email, should contact school via email: enquiries@stjosephs.npcat.org.uk

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the Government has just announced.

Please continue to monitor our school website stjosephs.npcat.org.uk, where we will be posting regular updates. You as parents please be assured that we will provide weekly telephone communication and a dedicated teacher will be in touch with you in addition to the online learning resources and distance learning being delivered by your school.

The coronavirus outbreak is an unprecedented situation that is affecting so many aspects of our everyday lives and we know that closing the school will cause considerable difficulties. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to assist you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

A G Toward

Headteacher

