

Executive Headteacher: Wendy McCormack
Head of School: Jane Bailey
Christ Church CE Primary School, Eccles, M30 0GZ
Tel: 0161 921 1955
Email: christchurch.ceprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk
Web: www.christchurchceprimary.co.uk



Tuesday, 12th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Under the latest National Lockdown restrictions, schools are only open to Vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers. We have had a number of requests for places in school and it is important that these places are offered based on the government guidelines and significant need.

The Local Authority have provided the following information in relation to prioritising the allocation of places:

Priority 1: Vulnerable pupils

Priority 2: Critical workers (Priority to Health, Social Care and Education – in this order)

The current rate of transmission of the virus means that we must do everything we can to protect our school community. Therefore, it is important that we support those pupils most in need whilst continuing to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible in light of the current National lockdown restrictions.

The guidance from the Department for Education was updated at the end of last week stating that ‘children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can attend school **if required**’ and ‘parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home **if they can**’.

For our part, we must stress that places in school for critical worker pupils must be just for those that have **no other options** and we ask that you only request a place **if there is no-one else** at home or part of your support/childcare bubble that can care for your child/children. Many of our critical workers, particularly hospital and frontline medical staff, will be working additional hours and covering multiple shifts and we want to ensure that we prioritise those with the most urgent need.

We have completed and updated the risk assessments and have followed all the procedures, but we recognise that it is difficult to maintain social distancing. For this reason, if we can lessen the numbers in school on any day, this would support in reducing the risk of spreading infection.

To support those pupils learning at home, staff are continuing to provide a range of online and paper-based learning which is the same as the learning taking place in school. This means that all children are accessing the same curriculum and supports them to avoid falling behind. Staff are starting regular welfare calls to all families this week so you can discuss any issues in person. You can also contact school or your child’s teachers through Tapestry/Seesaw with any questions or issues regarding home learning.

Please take some to time to carefully review your situation and consider only sending your child to school if and when it is absolutely necessary in order to carry out your critical worker role.

As ever, thank you for your continued patience and understanding at this time.

Kind regards

Mrs Wendy McCormack
Executive Headteacher

Mrs Jane Bailey
Head of School



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