

Friday, 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)-school places for children of key workers and vulnerable children

Following the Government's decision to allow children of key workers and vulnerable to continue to attend school, we need to identify which children will be requiring this place.

From Monday, 23rd March, Cornwall Education Learning Trust (CELT) will be working collaboratively to provide a St. Austell Hub to enable children of key workers and children identified as 'vulnerable' to attend school. This will operate from Penrice Academy and will be led by staff from Poltair School and Penrice Academy. This service will be available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. It is only available for these children because the government need to ensure that all other children are actively participating in social distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

A link to a survey has been emailed and text to all parents and carers this morning. Please can you complete this survey to allow us to plan effectively to provide this service preferably by midday today where possible.

A full list of the identified key workers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will also be making phone calls to all parents and carers this morning to ensure that they have received the link and/or to find out what each family's needs are. Please prioritise completing the survey when received as this will help speed up our organisation of this service.

The government has issued the following guidance: Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

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

I will be writing to parents and carers again later today to provide further guidance on how the CELT St. Austell Hub will operate as we work on those arrangements throughout the day today.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C White', with a large loop at the end.

Claire White
Deputy Headteacher