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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

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Our Ref: MQ/SM

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

Provision for Students of Key Worker and Vulnerable Students

Late last night, the Government provided a definitive list of key workers. Schools have been asked to provide a service for children where the parents are in this category and they cannot provide an alternative themselves for children during the school day.

The definition of key workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I must emphasise that this service is an emergency service and is only for key workers and at the discretion of the school. Please do not try and use this service if you do not fall into these categories. This will of course be dependent on our capacity to provide a viable provision, which may change over time.

The definition of vulnerable students also changed overnight. The school is contacting the parents and social workers of these children separately by email.

The advice from the Government still remains that children must stay at home wherever possible and only use the service at school if, at the last resort, there is no safe alternative. This is the first principle of the Government guidance.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Further, when youngsters are in school, it must be remembered that the Government advice on social distancing is compromised for students and staff.

We are currently trying to coordinate a response to the Government request, this will take time to put together. A number of parents have already requested provision, however, due to the late clarification regarding the definition of key workers, the provision will **not** be available until **Tuesday 24th March**.

Please can I reiterate that parents are not to send children to school unless they are key workers and they have informed us using the provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org email address and you have received an email from school confirming your child's provision.

No child is to be sent to school if the family is self-isolating.

Please reply to the email by **12.00noon** on **Monday 23rd March** with your request for provision. We may not be able to provide provision for late requests.

Many families rely on public or dedicated school buses. First Bus have informed us that they will not be running a school bus service from Monday 23rd March; other providers are likely to follow. Unfortunately, the school is not in a position to arrange transport. You will also be aware that many public transport providers are restricting their services.

Timing

Provision will be available from 9.00am to 3.15pm. We have aligned our day with St Peter's to assist with parental pick up. It will not be possible to have students attending school for half or part days. Equally, this is a full time provision and we cannot offer occasional days at present.

Canteen Service

A breakfast service will not be available, snacks will be available at breaktime and a meal service at lunch. Students will be able to use their fob to pay for food. This includes FSM students.

Registration

Students will be expected to register at 9.00am in their year groups. They will be directed to rooms in Newman Block upon arrival.

Supervision

Students will be supervised to undertake the remote learning that is being set for other students. A number of other activities will be available during the day. Staff will be on hand to assist. The member of staff may not be a subject specialist and it is likely that they may not be familiar to some students.

Groups

These will be of mixed ability and mixed ages; they will follow the normal timetable cycle with four periods before lunch and one after lunch.

Uniform and Equipment

Students will be expected to attend in full school uniform and they are required to have the necessary equipment for learning. They will also be required to bring their PE kit if appropriate. Staff have been instructed to maintain their standards of professional dress as well, so that the students see familiar faces in familiar roles. Students and staff will appreciate the consistency that this will bring.

Behaviour and Rewards

The school's behaviour and rewards policy will apply during the school day. Students will be asked to sign a 'behavioural agreement' once enrolled on the key worker / vulnerable student provision programme.

I appreciate that the restriction on the provision we can provide may appear limiting. It is important to remember the health and well-being of children, as well as that of teachers and workers in educational settings is important; the system will not cope if it is overwhelmed at this juncture. Educational staff are critical workers in the fight against this virus.

Our plans currently take us up to the Easter Holiday. At present, we believe we can offer a limited service for students who fall into the categories. However, the situation is fluid and if more staff are compelled to self-isolate, the provision may have to be withdrawn. Further, if the Government impose further restrictions on movement and social distancing, then we will also review the provision.

Yours sincerely



Mr Matthew Quinn
Headteacher