

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear parents/carers,

22nd March 2020

Please see the latest information from the Local Authority (via the link or copied below)

With the increasing demands for people to practice social distancing, I urge all parents to consider this advice seriously. With regards to the children who are now registered with us to attend this week (I emailed a reply on Friday), we will be asking every parent on a daily basis whether this is absolutely their last resort. We are also asking to see proof of employment please. I am very grateful to those parents who showed an interest initially but are now letting us know they are unlikely to need the service. If anyone else's circumstances change, please update us ASAP via **school email** (not teachers' hwb ones) as the number of children in, influences the number of staff required.

I repeat what the Vale are saying here. If one parent is working at home, we would expect the children to stay home. If we are to help slow spread of this disease, this really must be used as a last resort only. I am also classed as a key worker but when I am in school, I will be leaving my own children at home with my husband who is working from home on most days. In order to further reduce social contact, we are placing staff on a skeleton rota, with the remaining teachers working from home to plan the online activities.

Whilst these measures may seem severe, I hope you recognise that I have a duty of care to everyone in our school community and am also taking into account the very serious needs of our country in these challenging times. I must therefore do everything I can to minimise risk.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Yours faithfully,

Gen Hallett

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2020/March/Five-things-you-need-to-know-about-sending-your-child-to-school-key-workers-and-social-distancing.aspx

MESSAGE FOR CRITICAL KEY WORKERS

5 things you need to know about sending your child to school, key workers and social distancing

1. The latest scientific advice

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.

We must, as far as possible, minimise social contact and make sure that anyone who is particularly vulnerable to the virus is able to adopt **strict social distancing**.

2. How does social distancing affect schools

To reduce mixing between different groups or settings we need to keep the number of children in educational, childcare and play settings to the smallest number possible.

We also need to make sure children are not left with anyone who should be following stringent social distancing guidance, such as anyone over 70 or anyone with the specified **underlying health conditions**.

Keeping children safely in their home should limit the chance of the virus spreading and protect those vulnerable to more serious illness as a result of the virus.

3. What is the latest advice on key workers?

A list of categories of critical workers **has been published on the Welsh Government website**.

Places in schools will be highly limited and only children of key workers should be attending during this time.

If you are classed as a key worker but are able to perform the critical parts of your job effectively when working from home, then you should do so.

Even for critical workers, provision will only be made in schools or other settings where there is no safe alternative for your family.

4. I'm a key worker but my partner isn't. What should we do?

If you are in a family where one parent is a critical worker but the other parent is not then the other parent should provide safe alternative arrangements at home when possible.

5. I've seen different advice from different councils. How are local authorities working.

Local authorities are doing everything they can to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. They made and communicated plans based as part of an initial contingency to deal with the spread of coronavirus. Those plans will now adapt and change as they respond to the latest guidance available to the Welsh Government. For the very latest advice, please check **your local authority's website and gov.wales/coronavirus**.