



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcement by the Education Secretary on Wednesday evening, I write further to confirm that all schools in the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust will close on Friday 20th March for almost all pupils until further notice.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The fewer pupils 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.

To help our pupils and parents during this extended period of closure, schools will issue homework packs which will be available to collect from school at an organised time, or which will be sent electronically. This will provide pupils with a daily timetable and resources which will almost mirror what they should be doing in school. It is our hope that if pupils apply themselves well throughout this period, and use the resources that the schools provide, it will minimise the impact on their learning.

The school will endeavour to provide on-going childcare to a **very limited** number of pupils over the period of the school closure. Eligibility will be based strictly on Government guidelines and available to pupils:

- who are considered to be vulnerable and currently have an Education and Health-Care Plan (EHCP), a Child Protection Plan, a Child in Need plan or is a 'Looked After Child'.
- whose primary caregiver(s) are 'Key Workers' according to the list below*

The Government have asked Head teachers to use the following guidelines:

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 (**over 70**), 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.

I anticipate that schools in the Trust will be able to provide on-going childcare for approximately 10 to 20 per cent of pupils, depending on the availability of staff. Families will be prioritised based on the information you have provided on the online form.

*Official List of Key Workers:

- *Health and social care*
- *Education and childcare*
- *Key public services*
- *Local and national government*
- *Food and other necessary goods*
- *Public safety and national security*

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

If you consider yourselves to be eligible for on-going child care throughout this period of school closure, you should complete the application form by clicking on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/wajd43d>

Please note that you will only qualify for on-going childcare if the school is satisfied that you meet the criteria outlined above and this may be subject to a request for further written evidence in certain circumstances. You will be notified of the school's decision.

You should only send your child to school if a place has been confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Fitton
CEO