



St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we shared yesterday, from Monday all schools will be closed to the majority of children. St Bernadette's will however be open to the children of key workers and children with certain needs.

The government has today issued this advice for parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Essentially they are asking the following:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then they can attend school.
- 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.
- 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.

The list of key workers has been defined by the government as:

- **Health and social care** - This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
- **Education and childcare** - This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.
- **Key public services** - This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
- **Local and national government** - This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

- **Food and other necessary goods** - This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
- **Public safety and national security** -This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.
- **Transport** - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
- **Utilities, communication and financial services** - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

We have been asked to collate information about the key worker status of parents/ carers of children who will be attending school. Thank you to those of you who provided information yesterday. I appreciate how busy you are and am sorry to have to ask all of those who consider themselves to be key workers to complete this additional form

<https://forms.gle/DUNg8AXokWHjkq5W8>

We are still awaiting an update on what will happen with exams and as soon as I receive information I will share it with those to whom it applies.

Please remember that from Monday pupils should continue with their learning and I will send further information to you regarding this on Monday.

Finally, as the Church has suspended all public masses for the foreseeable future, it is going to be some time before we are able to receive the Eucharist. Many Churches will be live streaming Masses and this will give us the chance to, at least, participate in the readings and prayers. The diocesan website <https://cliftodiocese.com/> will provide updates and details of the live streaming of Mass.

I hope you and your families keep calm, safe and well.

Best wishes
Mrs McLaughlin