

Dear Parents/ carers,

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and you will already be aware that nationally all schools are closing today. The government has however asked schools from Monday onwards to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. We are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Many parents working in these key worker sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and the government has asked that; **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

Advice for parents is available on the following link.

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

On Monday therefore all **TMET** schools will be partially open, providing support for those children who **cannot** remain at home.

We will 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 at our schools **if this cannot be provided safely at home.**
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.

We will however be running our schools with a skeleton staff, and will be providing a limited timetable of activities. We will be open in every school from 9 am- 3 pm. Children do not have to wear school uniform. No catering will be available so children will need to bring in their own lunches. All families with children in receipt of free school meals will have vouchers sent out which will enable food to be purchased from local stores.

We may decide to amalgamate some schools together if this makes it easier for us to deliver education and support more effectively and staff may also be deployed from other schools. We will also be offering similar arrangements during the Easter holiday break. If we do make changes we will send further information to you as soon as possible.

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