

## COVID -19 – Frequently asked questions (Early Years - March 24 2020)

We are currently responding to the government guidance issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All government guidance can be found on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Following the announcement on March 18<sup>th</sup> by the government to close all schools, colleges, nurseries and EY providers including childminders we have received a high volume of calls with queries and questions and the implementation of this and implications for the sector.

*The key message within all the guidance issued is clear that the government has asked **parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible**, and asked schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders and other registered childcare settings to **remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend of critical workers and vulnerable children where they can.***

The guidance materials issued by government should help schools/EY providers to have the conversations with parents and make informed decisions about future opening for children and families. We highly recommend that schools/providers keep up to date with the guidance as it is issued. Below are some frequently asked questions you might find useful based on the guidance issued to date (March 23 2020)

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874742/Full\\_guidance\\_on\\_staying\\_at\\_home\\_and\\_away\\_from\\_others\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874742/Full_guidance_on_staying_at_home_and_away_from_others_1_.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

FAQ	Government guidance
<p>Do I need to inform Ofsted if I close my school/EY provider?</p> <p>Answer – No</p> <p>At this time, you do not need to let us know if you are closed due to COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p>	<p>No requirement to inform Ofsted, however you have been asked by your Local Authority to notify them of your capacity to open based on the guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
<p>If I need to close my EY provision where do I direct parents of vulnerable children and critical workers that need to access childcare.</p> <p>We operate out of a community building, we have been informed of their intension to close. This will force the closure of our setting, where can I direct parents who require childcare?</p> <p>Answer – parents to contact LA</p> <p>At this time we are asking all queries are directed to <a href="mailto:Amanda.gordon@derbyshire.gov.uk">Amanda.gordon@derbyshire.gov.uk</a> (Early Years children 0-5yrs)</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> states - The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. <b><u>If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</u></b></p> <p>If a parent is <b><u>unable to care for their child at home</u></b> and <u>meets the criteria for Vulnerable child or Key worker</u> listed in the national guidance dated March 19<sup>th</sup> they should contact their Local Authority Families Information Service for further advice and guidance regarding school/EY provision that is open and available.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
<p>I have a parent that has told me they are a key worker, but their partner is not on the list of key worker. Should I still provide provision for their child?</p> <p>Answer – Children with at least on parent/carer who is critical to the COVID-19 response can go to school/EY provider if required. However, many families with parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept safely at home.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> states - If a parent is <b><u>unable to care for their child at home</u></b> and <b><u>meets the criteria of a key worker critical to the COVID-19 response</u></b> schools/provision should remain open.</p> <p>The guidance states - If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or <b><u>has a parent</u></b> who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>

	<p>Children with a parent or carer who is listed on the <a href="#">government's critical worker list</a> should be considered for a school place, <b>so long as their job cannot be done from home.</b></p> <p>Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And <b>every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p>
<p>I have a number of children that are accessing two year old Early Years Entitlement Funding</p> <p>Do I need to stay open for all of the children in receipt of EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium)?</p> <p>Answer – No</p> <p>There is no reference to economic vulnerability in government guidance, therefore children accessing two year old Early Years Entitlement funding or EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premiums) must meet the criteria listed in the guidance.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> states - If a parent is <b>unable to care for their child at home</b> and <b>the child needs specialist support or is vulnerable</b> schools/provision should remain open.</p> <p>Vulnerable children defined in the guidance include – children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare, including child in need plans, child protection plans, 'looked after ' children, young carers, disables children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
<p>Do I still need to adhere to Ofsted staff – child ratios to enable my school/provision to remain open?</p> <p>Do I need to adhere to the EYFS statutory guidance and learning and development during this time?</p> <p>Answer – Yes</p> <p>There has been no change to legislation and EYFS regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Ofsted have issued a rolling update with regard to the COVID -19 response</p>	<p>There has been no change to legislation and EYFS regulatory requirements. Therefore schools/EY providers should continue to adhere to the EYFS statutory requirements when providing care for children.</p> <p>Ofsted state - We do not have the power to lift regulatory requirements. Legislative change is a matter for central government and, ultimately, parliament. We are in close contact with government officials as the situation develops</p> <p>Ofsted have issued a rolling update with regard to the COVID -19 response</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=86bb486c-60bd-430c-8d9c-0b6873bf6ee0&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&amp;utm_content=immediate#history">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=86bb486c-60bd-430c-8d9c-0b6873bf6ee0&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&amp;utm_content=immediate#history</a></p>

<p>I have a child that meets the vulnerable child criteria in the guidance. Can I also care for the sibling of this child, even though their parent/s are not key workers as listed in the guidance?</p> <p>Answer – No</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19th states - The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. <b><u>If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</u></b></p> <p>That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools/providers to remain open only for those children who <b><u>absolutely need to attend.</u></b></p>
<p>If I remain open will this have an impact on my insurance?</p>	<p>You are advised to contact your insurer with regard to any queries that you feel will impact on your insurance policy.</p> <p>If you are a maintained school then cover is included as part of your Derbyshire insurance.</p>
<p>If I am open for children of key worker and the vulnerable as listed in the government guidance, can I continue to care for children registered who do not meet the criteria?</p> <p>Answer – No</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19th states - The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. <b><u>If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</u></b></p> <p>That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools/providers to remain open only for those children who <b><u>absolutely need to attend.</u></b></p>
<p>I am a childminder I have parents that meet the criteria for key workers in the national guidance, however should I remain open if I now have family members that are working from home due to being in the vulnerable group?</p> <p>Answer – You need to make your decision based on the government guidance.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> states - If a parent is <b><u>unable to care for their child at home</u></b> and <b><u>meets the criteria of a key worker critical to the COVID-19 response</u></b> schools/provision should remain open.</p> <p>However the guidance states – we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus, we should refer to ALL government guidance with regard to COVID-19 to enable you to make an informed decision.</p> <p>That is why the government has given clear guidance on <a href="#">self-isolation</a>, <a href="#">household isolation</a> and <a href="#">social distancing</a>.</p>

<p>Is it mandatory to open for key worker staff and vulnerable children?</p> <p>Answer – No, you need to make your decision based on the government guidance.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19<sup>th</sup> states - 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.</p> <p>That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, <b><u>and asked schools/providers</u></b> to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.</p> <p>As a school/EY provider you should make your decision to remain open based on the government guidance issued.</p> <p>That is why the government has given clear guidance on <a href="#">self-isolation</a>, <a href="#">household isolation</a> and <a href="#">social distancing</a>.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
<p>I am a private business I am concerned if I remain open for key workers and vulnerable children only, this could have an impact on my sustainability in the future</p> <p>How do I find out about how I can access financial help and support?</p> <p>I understand that the LA will continue to fund children that are eligible for 2,3 and 4yr old Early Years entitlement funding. What about the loss of earnings from fee paying children?</p>	<p>The government announced March 17 2020 they will continue to pay funding for the Early Years Entitlement funding for 2, 3 and 4yr olds.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-childcare-offers-to-continue-during-coronavirus-closures">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-childcare-offers-to-continue-during-coronavirus-closures</a></p> <p>Derbyshire County Council informed all EY providers/schools they would receive funding for all of the children within your claim, and your payment will be issued in 4 monthly payments for term time providers and 5 monthly payments for those operating for more than 39 weeks. This funding would be for all of the children registered to the school/EY provider based on the signed FE1 forms.</p> <p><a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/administration/guidance-for-provider-closures.pdf">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/administration/guidance-for-provider-closures.pdf</a></p>

<p>Answer – Government has issued guidance for businesses and Derbyshire county council has information on its website.</p>	<p>Please see the link below to the Governments website detailing support available:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-who-are-paying-sick-pay-to-employees">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-who-are-paying-sick-pay-to-employees</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/employers-businesses/employers-and-businesses.aspx">https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/employers-businesses/employers-and-businesses.aspx</a></p> <p>LA cannot advice on private arrangements for childcare</p>
<p>Are my nursery/Early Years practitioner’s key workers? Does ‘teacher’ &amp; teaching assistant’ also mean Early Years staff?</p> <p>Answer – Yes, however every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19 2020 referred to <b>Education and childcare</b> - This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.</p> <p>Guidance issued March 22 2020 states - Children with a parent or carer who is listed on the <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">government’s critical worker list</a> should be considered for a school place, so long as their <b>job cannot be done from home</b>. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And <b>every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
<p>Do I need to keep registers for the children who are attending my school/EY provision during this time?</p> <p>Answer – Yes</p> <p>If you are <b>school</b> you have been asked to complete submit a <a href="#">short daily return</a>, reporting if they are open and how</p>	<p>In the government guidance issued March 22 2020 –</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p> <p>The government guidance issued March 23 2020 – states during this period, <b>schools</b> need to submit a <a href="#">short daily return</a>, reporting whether they are open and how many children and staff</p>

<p>many children and staff are in school. This is to be returned to the DfE.</p> <p>If you are an EY provider we would advise that you keep a clear and accurate register of all the children in your setting on a daily basis.</p>	<p>are in school. This will allow for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allow schools to provide accurate, up to date data to the government. This will also help DfE to track capacity in the system, enabling the department to feed into wider tracking of the impact of the virus to support scientific advice.</p>
<p>I am a school/EY Provider and will be remaining open for children of key workers and our vulnerable children. What information do I need to hold for additional children not normally registered to our school/EY provision?</p> <p>I have a critical key worker parent, who ordinarily splits funding for their child, however only wants their child to access all of their entitlement through one provider (supporting social distancing) Will I receive all the funding for this child?</p> <p>Answer – Government guidance states schools/providers should obtain important information on day one for any additional children attending. This should include emergency contact details, dietary requirements and medical needs to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children.</p>	<p>The government guidance issued March 19th states - The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. <b><u>If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.</u></b></p> <p>That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools/providers to remain open only for those children who <b><u>absolutely need to attend.</u></b></p> <p><b>In the government guidance issued March 23 2020 it states you should obtain</b> important information on day one, including emergency contact details, dietary requirements and medical needs to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p> <p>The government guidance issued March 23 2020 – states during this period, <b><u>schools</u></b> need to submit a <a href="#">short daily return</a>, reporting whether they are open and how many children and staff are in school.</p>
<p>Should I let the LA know if I am open or closed?</p> <p>Answer Yes</p>	<p>Please let the LA know if you close. You will receive an email from the LA each Friday to update your current status so we can ensure places for the children of parents critical to the COVID-19 response</p>