



**Bradford Diocesan
Academies Trust**

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with regret that we are writing to you so early in the term to confirm that school is now closed for on-site education to the majority of pupils.

Following the Prime Ministers statement on 4th January, all schools have been required to close their doors to all pupils, except for the following groups:

- **Vulnerable children or young people**
- **Children of critical workers**

The definitions for both of these group was updated by the Government on 31st December and we have included the full definitions at the end of this letter so you are easily able to identify if your child is eligible for on-site education.

The Government has also mandated that exams scheduled for early January such as BTECs or vocational qualifications should still go ahead and we will continue to run these on site for our secondary schools

The Government has now asked schools to provide remote education for all other students until at least February half term. This will be a mix of online and blended learning. As you will understand it will take us a few days to get this up and running. Our intention is to provide your child with an educational experience that is as close to the one that they would normally receive if they were studying in school.

We understand that this will be difficult news for many of you during very uncertain times. However we can reassure you that every school in BDAT will do their very best to support the children and young people they serve whether it be at home or in school.

Once again I can only thank all of you – our parents, carers, pupils and our staff - in the extra efforts you are making in the interest of our children's education at this time.

With our very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Dewhurst'.

**Carol Dewhurst CEO
Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust**



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DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN FOR ON-SITE EDUCATION: updated 31st December 2020

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

Definition of vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Definition of Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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



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- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors