



# Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

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family

11 January 2021

## BDAT Position on Opening for Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children

Updated DFE guidance January 8th: critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Please only use school places if you really need to & we will be here to help you out. This will help us to make sure those staff & students in school can be kept as safe as possible.

The National Lockdown announced by the Prime minister started on the 4 January, with a national direction to all English residents that: ***"You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. You should follow this guidance immediately. This is the law"***.

In the spirit of this guidance, we wish to remind you that all children, with the exception of vulnerable children, **should stay at home and access remote learning if it is safe to do so**. This will lower the number of households mixing within school and reduce transmission of the virus. It will help keep you, your child, the rest of your family and your teachers safe. This has to be all of our key priority.

**Expectation of vulnerable children: children deemed vulnerable are expected and encouraged in to school.** If a vulnerable child does not attend school, the school is required by the Government to mark your child as an unauthorised absence. If you are the parent of a vulnerable child and have concerns about sending your child to school, please contact school and we will happily talk through your concerns and help find a way forward that is right for your child. By keeping numbers low and by adhering to all our normal measures such as regular hand washing and hygiene and social distancing, school is a safe place for your child and we look forward to seeing them.

**Expectation of children of critical workers: critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Please only use school places if you really need to & we will be here to help you out.**

You will have read that some schools across England are very full due to the number of children still attending. Obviously if we have more students in school, then the risk of virus transmission does increase. We therefore are asking any parent who is a critical worker to keep their child at home if they can and encourage them to join remote learning provision with their peers. We can accommodate children part or full time to meet your needs if you do still require a place in school.

**Children in nurseries:** whilst the Government has confirmed nursery provision can stay open for all children, as with critical worker provision, BDAT is keen to keep numbers as low as possible in line with the rest of school. Parents of nursery age children should therefore also aim to keep their children at home when they can and should only send them in to school where they have no other alternative. BDAT will be providing remote education activities for nursery age children in the same way they will be providing remote learning for all other year groups in our schools.

### Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

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Thank you for your understanding on this matter. The Government has been clear that schools will be expected to operate remotely until at least February half term and we look forward to welcoming all children back in to school when we are allowed to do so.

**Alice Jones**

“  
Believe  
and  
achieve”

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