



Serenity School

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Serenity School

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7th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Government's announcement that the UK has now moved into another full National Lockdown, the Leadership team have met to look at what this means for us as a special school.

The Leadership team have discussed the new measures in place and have put together an action plan regarding the safe opening of the schools during the next 6 weeks. Considering the Government's statistics released from SAGE, where more than 1 in 30 people in London are now affected by the spread of the variant virus, we advise that parents/carers make the best decision for their child since it is now considered a high risk and not recommended to meet with people outside of individual households. The approach "Stay at Home" supports the scientific advice, supports the NHS and saves lives.

The management of schools at this time for normal daily operation is extremely difficult for the following reasons:

- The high ratio of parents and carers electing to keep their children at home during the national lockdown.
- The safety concerns of our school community, regarding the rising rates of Covid-19 cases in our boroughs.
- Staffing ratios due to the care of dependents or ongoing self-isolation requirements.
- Infection rates and silent variants.
- The lack of access to the external providers the schools work with daily, and the halt of any cross site working.
- No further guidance at this time on implementing Mass testing during the national lockdown.

Our schools will remain open and we have prioritised children who are **vulnerable** or **children of critical workers**. As a special school this does not mean pupils with an EHCP, as we would not be able to reduce numbers to keep our school community safe or have sufficient staffing to have all pupils in school at this time for the reasons outlined above.

If your child can continue to come into school, your child's class teacher or a member of the school leadership team will have contacted you to confirm arrangements. Staff will continue to make weekly welfare calls to all children, however, please note that unfortunately some pupils will have to stay at home to support our efforts in the combat of the Coronavirus disease. If we have not been in contact yet or approved your child's attendance at school from next week, your child needs to remain at home. We appreciate that you may feel disappointed that your child cannot come into school, we apologise for this and hope that you will continue to work with us, to support our school and the wider community. Your child's class teacher(s) will provide remote learning and will be in regular contact with both you and your child.

Please be assured that we will constantly review our offer and when it is safe to do so we will widen our offer. However, at the moment we are responding to Government advice to help protect the NHS and save lives.

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, made a statement yesterday (6th January) to the House of Commons about the closure of schools in England during the national lockdown.

He stated that schools have not suddenly become unsafe but limiting the number of children and students who attend them is essential to curb the escalating cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the country and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

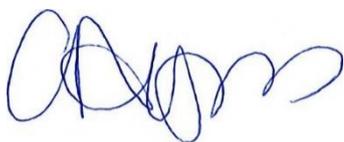
The safety of all is paramount and as such we are using alternative ways of working with the children and our families to safeguard everyone at this time. Home school resources and FSM vouchers have been sent home to pupils for the first two weeks of this term thus far and this will be a continued practice to support families. During this time, our schools will be putting together a more robust virtual learning offer. Over the next two weeks we will be contacting all parents and carers again to ensure pupils have access to a computer at home, so they can engage in timetabled sessions with their teachers through Google Classroom. Virtual sessions will begin from Monday 18th January, and parents and carers will receive further guidance on this ahead of the start date.

Our fundamental aim is to follow the main Government guidance by keeping the schools open in a reduced capacity for the children of critical key workers, year 11 students and our most vulnerable learners, whilst considering the wider implications for the safety of students and staff members of our school and community to curtail the spread of the of the infectious, variant virus.

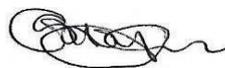
If you are a critical worker and have not been contacted, please can you contact the school office immediately so that arrangements can be made. A list of critical workers is on the following page.

We thank you for supporting the school community during this very challenging time for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C. Ayisi
Head Teacher
Serenity School Croydon



Mrs S. Hoyer
Head Teacher
Serenity School Eltham

Ms Linda Brown

Linda Brown

Chair of Governing Body
Serenity Schools Group

Critical workers (as published on gov.uk)

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
- 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 sector