

Queensbury School

Wood End Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 8BL
Telephone: 0121 373 5731
Email: enquiry@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.queensburysch.com>



20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from previous updates, I am now writing to let you know, but I am sure you will already be aware, that we have now been instructed by government to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice. It is important to follow all government guidelines and be aware of social distancing and self-isolation procedures as they are updated;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

It is imperative that the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

As government states;

“...government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open ONLY for those children who absolutely need to attend...”

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers only (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services and children with certain needs, as directed by government guidelines). We asked families to complete the online survey before 12.00pm today to help us prioritise these critical families. If you fall in to this category, it will be your family decision of whether or not you choose to access school provision, as **there will still be risks that we simply cannot contain**, but of course we will do what we can. It is essential that you only access this provision if it is absolutely vital for you to do so as a key worker.



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All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. It is imperative that you adhere to this request, as no child of a parent/carer, not recognised on the key worker list will not have access to school for any reason.

As every child in our school has an Education Health Care Plan, we have contacted Public Health England and taken advice about potentially having so many students within the school setting, based on this government guidance. They have advised that we risk assess every student and prioritise the children from key worker families. We have completed the risk assessments based on medical, physical, cognitive and behaviour in order for the school to do its duty to remain open for the critical students and have adequate **health and safety and infection control measures in place.**

As the virus has spread the staffing levels within the school have become increasingly difficult to manage on a day by day basis. In order for the school to remain open for key worker families and endure a potentially long period of time we have had to take difficult decisions to limit numbers on those families that have a civic duty to the COVID-19 response.

For our school community which will be the vast majority that are in isolation at home we have created a home learning team to regularly update educational resources, sample lessons, Queensbury TV on YouTube, GCSE pod and a range of other educational material. This team of staff have been advised by Public Health England not to be in the building due to underlying medical conditions, self-isolation and family isolation.

- link to home learning page;
<https://queensburysch.com/online-learning-links/>
- Queensbury TV on YouTube;
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6pU0B2KzkyHah2DK_43ZUg
- GCSEpod;
www.gcsepod.com

For any families who are in receipt of free school meals we are working with City Serve and the Local Authority to ensure vouchers that can be utilised in a variety of high street food shops to be emailed directly at some point next week. If you require this service please email;

fsm@queensbury.bham.sch.uk



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Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is announced by government, but again this will not be our decision to make at the moment.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops. What is important in all of this is the safety of yourselves and your families, so please do take care!

I cannot reiterate enough for every family to do their national and civic duty we need to adhere to this advice for children to stay at home to protect our most vulnerable in society and support our front line staff who are putting themselves at risk every day.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Bishop
Chair of the IEB
On behalf of the IEB

Mr Chris Wilson
Interim Head Teacher
with executive powers



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Following Public Health England, government guidance and consultation with relevant professionals we have identified that your child;

Is NOT required to attend school at this point in time and we request that you support your child's education at home

- link to home learning page;
<https://queensburysch.com/online-learning-links/>
- Queensbury TV on YouTube;
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6pU0B2KzkyHah2DK_43ZUg
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If you need support through your class Teacher or specific subject you can email these staff;

For example, class Teacher – class8E@queensbury.bham.sch.uk

- <https://queensburysch.com/secondary/>
- <https://queensburysch.com/6th-form/>

Faculty	Email Address
Maths	maths@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
English	english@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Science	science@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
The Arts & ICT	arts@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Humanities (History, Geography, R.E)	humanities@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Life Skills	lifeskills@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Personal Development	personaldevelopment@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Wellbeing (Pastoral / Mentors)	wellbeing@queensbury.bham.sch.uk



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