



Whitmore High School - Coronavirus update (20th March 2020)

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, Welsh Government has decided that all schools will close from Friday 20th March 2020. Our provision remains as follows:

Friday 20th March - Normal timetabled lessons for all pupils.

From the week beginning Monday 23rd March the school will 're-purpose' to help support those most in need, including the children of those involved in supporting the country's efforts to manage and deal with the Covid-19 virus.

As a consequence, the school will be operating provision for children of front-line workers.

Please follow these key principles outlined by the government:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Front - Line workers

Front-line workers have been identified by the government as:

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 nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

To offer supervision for the children of the above we need to properly prepare to deliver this provision. We therefore need to identify which, and how many, children fall into this category and will be attending school from Monday 23rd March. Please let the school know by 3pm today.



We will not be accepting pupils in this category without prior request and authorisation in advance. We therefore ask parents to email the school via the following email address. Alternatively, you can call the school on 01446 411 411.

ralphsT1@hwmail.net

with the following information – Child's name, year group/form and parent/carer's occupation.

For these pupils the school will operate its normal school hours of 8:30 am to 2:55 pm every day.

I respectfully remind you that the supervision for health front-line workers is voluntary, now that Welsh Government have formally closed schools from Friday and we will only continue to operate these services if safe for our staff who are volunteering.

Pupils Entitled to Free School Meals

These pupils will be provided with a free school meal at the school, further information on this will follow.

Online Learning

Details of how your child can continue with informal learning at home will be on the school's website and Twitter page: -

Website: <https://www.whitmorehigh.org>

Twitter: @whitmorehigh

External Examinations

All examinations for the summer of 2020 are cancelled by the Welsh Government. This means that pupils due to sit GCSE and A Level examinations will not sit examinations and will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available. Schools will be informed in due course, what this range of evidence will be and of the process for awarding. The link to the Qualifications Wales website which will provide this information to schools, pupils and parents is as follows:

<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/>

Mr I Robinson

Head of School