

Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children – Priorities and Tiering January 2021

Following the government announcement of the closure schools the Willows Primary School will continue to offer on site places to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children as required in the guidance.

This guidance changed on Friday 8th January 2021,

*‘... Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**’*

Places at the Willows Primary School will be offered, in the first instance to vulnerable children, as identified by the school based on children having an EHCP or current child protection issues, alongside the children of critical workers where **both** parents/carers are critical workers and **not working from home** or where the child’s single parent/ carer is a critical worker and not working from home. We will use a new tiered system and this is explained below. Places will be offered on a full time basis and school hours only. (Wrap around care will be available through RSP).

Please note:

- Due to the fact that staff will now be needed to run online learning only 15 children per year group can be accommodated
- These places are intended for families who have no other adult at home to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus. Regardless of your critical worker status if there is an adult at home you may not be offered a place
- We reserve the right to request additional information direct from your workplace to confirm that you are needed on site, including shift patterns etc. and may ask you for further contact details.
- The safest place for children to be is at home at this time. Mixing with other children will heighten the risk of infection and should be avoided unless there are no other options.
- School staff will be under great pressure and response times will be slower than normal.
- Some places will be filled by children of the Willows’ staff who are required on school site (see Tier 1 explanation below)

The school will allocate places using the following criteria:

Tier 1 – will be allocated a place first

- Vulnerable children, as identified by each school based on children having an EHCP or current child protection issues,
 - Critical workers where both parents/carers are critical workers and not working from home or where the child’s single parent/ carer is a critical worker and not working from home.
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- NHS frontline clinical staff or administrators (e.g. NHS 911 etc.) working directly with Coronavirus patients, first responders (i.e. paramedics or those who support them)
 - Those medical staff involved in Covid vaccination;
 - Police officers and some civilian police staff (e.g. dispatchers);
 - Firefighters;
 - Those in NHS support services needed to keep hospitals and clinics running – e.g. hospital porters, full time hospital cleaners etc. (please explain when you submit your application)

- School staff who are attending on site provision at their own schools – e.g. looking after the children of critical workers themselves.

Tier 2 – will be allocated a place when all places are not used by Tier 1 parents (effectively first waiting list)

- Other frontline NHS workers (e.g. midwives, pathologists, CT scan operators, radiographers)
- Local authority staff working in key emergency planning roles;
- Those responsible for the management of the deceased;

Tier 3 – keyworkers who may be needed if/when the crisis escalates (effectively second waiting list – clinical staff offered first)

- Those in other NHS/private care roles who will not be called upon to assist in coronavirus cases – e.g. care home staff, researchers, private pharmacists, OT, NHS administrators, other medical specialities etc.)
- Social workers;
- Those involved with the supply chain for supermarkets and pharmacies (i.e. supermarket delivery drivers and those in supporting logistics roles)
- Those working for TfGM in key transport roles (train drivers, bus drivers)
- Prison officers and some other prison staff or involved in judicial system;
- Those working in care homes or in meals on wheels;
- Community police officers;

Tier 4 – only able to offer a place if there are spaces left once other tiers have been accommodated.

- Those involved in the water industry – delivery or maintenance;
- ICT or telecoms workers in critical roles (please explain in email)
- Those employed in necessary government processes such as the payment of benefits;
- Probation service staff;
- Those involved in fuel or gas deliveries or maintenance;
- Transport and associated staff in support roles for transport services.
- NHS medical students;
- Those working in postal services and delivery;
- Those working in waste disposal sectors;

Tier 5 - only able to offer a place if one parent is a critical worker and there is evidence that a second parent (who is not a critical worker) cannot work from home and provide child care.

The Willows' Governors

12th January 2021