



13th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you as the Chair Person for the Governing Body of the Willows Primary School.

As you have no doubt seen in the media over the weekend many primary schools in England are having to accommodate high numbers of critical worker children during this current lockdown. The schools governors are very concerned about the significant number of critical worker children attending the Willows. This not only increases risks to the children themselves but to their parents, families and the school staff as well. I know that Mrs Warren wrote to you last week to ask you to consider carefully whether you really need the place offered to your children. This unfortunately only resulted in 2 less children attending, bringing the total number of vulnerable and critical worker children to 164 (54%) at the Willows.

On Friday 8th January 2021 the DfE changed its advice to parents and has stated,

*'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.**'*

Last night, Tuesday 12th January 2021, the full Governing Body met to discuss the situation and review whether the school is in breach of its Covid risk assessment. This risk assessment states that the maximum number of children per bubble should be 15 and this figure is also what was advised to us by Trafford as they await further clarification from the DfE. Currently the school is exceeding these limits. The risk assessment can be viewed on the school website <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/covid-19/>

The Governing Body would therefore like to ask parents once again to reflect on whether they really need the critical worker place offered to their children. We would like parents to **re-apply** for a critical worker place using the application form by following the link below. If applications exceed 15 per bubble then a tiered criteria will be applied, please see an explanation of the tiered criteria and the criteria attached. Applications must be made online by 12 noon tomorrow, Thursday 14th January 2021.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda3MaPAfXFmnum61xdydYHmtOQuIJ0yD64yuE5SGDSBWK_F3w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&qxids=7628

You will be notified by 5.00pm on Friday 15th January 2021 whether your children have been allocated a critical worker place.

We all appreciate how difficult this situation is for every family, especially those who have absolutely no option but to care for their children at home. We are confident that the school's home learning offer is of a very high standard and we know it has received much positive feedback from families who have no choice but to educate and care for their children at home. We hope that, once again, we can trust the school community to use its integrity and that each member examines their social conscience as to whether they really need a critical worker place at the Willows.

Thank you for your understanding,

Kind regards,

Mr A McCorquodale
Chair of Governors