



EDINBURGH  
STEINER  
SCHOOL  
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

### **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)** - update on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Thank you to over 100 parents who completed the SurveyMonkey [questionnaire](#) regarding key worker status. This has helped us establish a rough idea of how many pupils may be invited to attend school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We have now received much clearer guidance as to the definition of 'key worker,' and it is quite wide (see below). In a letter to schools, the Deputy First Minister (DFM) also confirmed that independent schools have discretion in how they interpret these categories, but must have a clear justification for allowing each pupil into school from Monday 23<sup>th</sup>.

### **Key workers**

A full list of key workers, as published by the Scottish Government today, is given below.

### **Staffing**

Edinburgh Steiner School has also surveyed its staff to establish whether face to face teaching of pupils will be viable, and for how long. Some teachers, administrators and support staff may not be able to attend school in person. Individuals must make a personal judgement whether, for example, to self-isolate, and this is particularly true of staff members who live with vulnerable relatives. The DFM did, however, confirm that teaching is expected to continue, in some form, and our colleagues will work to deliver a curriculum to all the School's pupils to the best of their ability, provided it is safe for all concerned.

At the present time, the School is committed to opening for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, and thereafter for the remainder of the term unless parents are informed otherwise. If you are unsure about your status as a

key worker, or if your child is 'vulnerable,' we will endeavour to use discretion on Monday. After Monday, parents wishing to check their status should phone Helen Newton at school on 0131 337 3410.

### **Arrival at School on Monday**

**Pupils in the Lower and Upper Schools** should arrive promptly between 8.10am and 8.40am and will be greeted at either the front or back gates by a member of staff, who will take their name and direct them to the School Hall where registration will take place. It is likely that only one building will be used for lessons (Edinholme) and Classes will be combined. Combined Classes will be well supported with teaching staff. However, if sufficient support cannot be provided, or if we have any doubts as to the safety of pupils or staff, alternative arrangements will be made (such as making use of other buildings). Monday will allow us to test the resilience of our approach and we will adapt if necessary.

**Kindergarten and Playgroup children and parents** will be greeted at the Kindergarten gate where they will be shown to their room. Early Years sessions will run at the usual times. A revised rhythm will be in place for Kindergarten, but a full day's care will be provided if required.

**Prelim candidates** arriving in the morning will be greeted at the front or back gates (as above) and should make their way directly to where their prelim is due to be held (Avalon for Geography and Physics; Language Room for French in the afternoon). Candidates should avoid lingering in classrooms or public spaces and leave school after their prelim.

### **Full list of Key Workers**

#### **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 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.

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who have responded to our questionnaire already. For anyone that has yet to fill it in, you can do so by following the link below. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NW795DL>