



**SIR THOMAS
BOUGHEY
ACADEMY**

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Further to an update from the Department for Education last night, the following guidance has been released. Please note that all information in italics and a different font below has been taken directly from the Department for Education document. We have also shared the full document through the Gateway, Facebook and our website.

Firstly, the document makes it clear that ***if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.***

That is why the 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 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.*

STBA is proud to be part of the



**UNITED
ENDEAVOUR
TRUST**

Sir Thomas Boughey Academy
Station Road
Halmer End
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST7 8AP



01782 729426



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy



**SIR THOMAS
BOUGHEY
ACADEMY**

- 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.*

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

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.

STBA is proud to be part of the



**UNITED
ENDEAVOUR
TRUST**

Sir Thomas Boughey Academy
Station Road
Halmer End
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST7 8AP



01782 729426



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy



**SIR THOMAS
BOUGHEY
ACADEMY**

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,

STBA is proud to be part of the



**UNITED
ENDEAVOUR
TRUST**

Sir Thomas Boughey Academy
Station Road
Halmer End
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST7 8AP



01782 729426



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy



SIR THOMAS BOUGHEY ACADEMY

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.

In addition, clarity has also been provided on vulnerable children who are to be offered a place in school. The document states that

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Following this latest guidance, we are asking for an urgent response from the parents of these key groups to let us know if you wish to send your child to school, or if you prefer to keep them off school. To this end, please can you respond to us, as soon as possible, ideally by 12pm, not 11am, as per the letter yesterday. We appreciate that although the deadline has been extended by one hour, this is still short notice but we need to put plans in place to ensure necessary arrangements are made for Monday. Please respond using the email address covid-19@stb.academy to let us know your wishes. It would be appreciated if you could email:

- Your child's name and form tutor
- Your job title and employer (if you are a front-line worker)
- If you are a sole parent
- One of the following:
 - 1) My child will not attend school
 - 2) My child will continue to attend school

Or 3) Please call me to discuss this choice.

If you would like your son / daughter to attend, please could you also notify us if they will require a school lunch. We have been fortunate to secure two members of the catering team who will work next week. However, please be aware that the range of food on offer will be much reduced compared to what the students are used to.

If we don't hear from you, we will assume you do not wish to take up the offer of your son / daughter being in school.

I'm sure you will appreciate that, due to the delay in the list of government-defined key workers being available, the time available to make arrangements for provision next week is limited. With this in mind, please send your son / daughter to school on Monday at the usual time.

STBA is proud to be part of the



**UNITED
ENDEAVOUR
TRUST**

Sir Thomas Boughey Academy
Station Road
Halmer End
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST7 8AP



01782 729426



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy



SIR THOMAS BOUGHEY ACADEMY

In the communication yesterday, it did state that, once we know numbers, we will confirm arrangements with you since we may decide to join with other academies in the Trust, to open just one site, or we may have to close this provision if we cannot safely staff our academies or ensure safe site management. For example, we may find ourselves in this position if staff illness rises further. However, on Monday, please send your son / daughter to Sir Thomas Boughey Academy at the normal time on Monday morning. Please also note that there will be no Period 6 sessions running – the school provision will be within the hours of the usual school day, finishing at 3.30pm.

If you make the decision to send your son / daughter into school next week, later today (once we have more information on the number of students attending school) you will receive a further communication.

Please also be aware that usual lessons will not be offered, but rather supervised access to computers and the internet in order to work on tasks set by class teachers, just as children working at home will experience.

If you elect not to send your child to school, and you are from a key worker group or are a parent of a vulnerable child, and you change your mind at a later date, please do contact us on covid-19@stb.academy. Similarly, please use the same form of communication if you choose to send your son / daughter into school on Monday but then change your mind at a later date. For safeguarding reasons, this will enable us to ensure that our registers are up-to-date. If it is that you have stated that your son / daughter will continue to attend school, but s/he does not arrive, for the purposes of safeguarding, you will receive an attendance telephone call.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time.

Stay safe. Look after each other. Be kind.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Hingley

STBA is proud to be part of the



Sir Thomas Boughey Academy
Station Road
Halmer End
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST7 8AP



01782 729426



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy