

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following yesterday's announcement regarding the closure of schools to all pupils with the exception of 'vulnerable' children or those of 'key workers', we have been working hard with other schools in Education South West, to put in place practical arrangements.

From Monday 23rd March, Dartmouth Academy will be closed except for certain groups of children:

- Vulnerable children (e.g. those with an Education, Health and Care Plan; those with a social worker)

Your child is eligible to attend the Academy if they are in this group. We are in the process of contacting families to ascertain whether they will be attending.

- Children of key workers (such as health, police, social care, delivery drivers and possibly school staff)

It is not yet clear which workers fit this definition. The government are due to announce this today or tomorrow. As soon as we have clarity we will email you a document for completion. The form will tell us if your child is eligible to attend Academy under the new directives. You may still wish to keep your child at home. The form will allow you to indicate to us what provision you need to be available to you and your family.

Devon County have reassured us that they are running transport to our schools in the normal way on Monday 23rd March. We will then have a much clearer view of demand and plans may then change to ensure the most efficient use of school transport. We will of course update you if any changes happen.

If your child does attend school next week then it is important to note that they will need to bring a packed lunch to school as there will be no catering facilities on site. Education South West have organised meal vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals. These will be posted to your house. Children in receipt of these who are able to attend school must bring a packed lunch.

As we await further clarification, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding that we are acting in the best interests of our pupils, staff and communities in an ever-changing scenario. We will update you on progress again tomorrow.

Kind regards

Tina Graham

Tina Graham
Principal