



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Firstly, can I reiterate my thanks to you all for the many messages of support that we have received during this troubling time.

Hampstead School is now physically closed to all students from Monday 23 March 2020, with the exception of children of critical workers who cannot be safely cared for at home and children who are confirmed as being vulnerable. (This will include children with Education, Health and Care Plans or in receipt of an Exceptional Needs Grant). All students in the latter category will, by now, have been contacted and agreed arrangements put in place.

Following on from my letter yesterday, I now have further information from the DfE about the critical worker category. This is clearly defined in the table below.

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Thank you to those who have already contacted Mr Stevens or Ms Daulphin. If you still need to contact them, please do so immediately or by 1400 at the latest.

g.stevens@hampsteadschool.org.uk; h.daulphin@hampsteadschool.org.uk

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 (e.g. family support workers).



Head: Jacques Szemalikowski MA BSc(Hons) PGCE NPQH CPhys MinstP. FRSA
Hampstead School, Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT

T: 020 7794 8133 **E:** enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk **www:** www.hampsteadschool.org.uk



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.

Before confirming that your child will need supervision because they cannot be safely cared for at home, please note

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- You should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents or friends and family members with underlying conditions.
- You should also do everything you can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- **This only applies to critical workers who cannot make other childcare arrangements**

The government has put in place emergency legislation

: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do/what-the-coronavirus-bill-will-do>. This provides powers that relax some requirements around education legislation including that for children with special educational needs.

I must now explain the nature of the provision we are able to provide and the flexibility we are allowed under the emergency legislation needed, to ensure we can provide a service for our eligible children and critical workers. The school will be open from 0900 to 1430 daily and whilst all staff are DBS checked, children will not necessarily be with staff who usually work with them. It is likely that there will be daily changes to staffing.

Although your child will be at school, they will not have their normal curriculum. Students will follow broadly the same model as those at home and provision will otherwise be based on a supervision model. During this time, it may not be possible to provide the special educational provision as specified in your child's EHCP. Our Achievement Support Faculty has contacted you about this.

We will continue to ensure that our safeguarding procedures are in place, and, although there may not be a Designated Safeguarding Lead on site, we will ensure that a member of staff will be the safeguarding contact.

Due to staff shortages, we will not always have a first aider on site.

If your child requires medication, please provide this at home where at all possible. Children who already attend our school will have a plan in place regarding their medication. Please remember to alert us to any changes. There may be times when we cannot provide the staffing to deliver your child's medication and the school will need to make a decision whether your child is able to attend if there are concerns about their safety.

Please make sure we have your contact details and the contact details of an emergency contact so we can contact you if your child is ill or has an accident. If your child does become ill, you or your emergency contact, must collect your child immediately.

Please remember that emergency services may not be available immediately, so having up to date contacts and being able to contact you in an emergency is really important.

Finally, as stated in my letter yesterday you will need to provide evidence of your critical worker status to the school.

Please continue to check the school's website for the latest information.

Yours sincerely

Jacques Szemalikowski
Head