

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Emergency Supervision – Ryhall CE Academy

The Prime Minister made it very clear almost two weeks ago that the only way for us to save lives and avoid overwhelming the NHS is to stay at home. I would like to thank our parents/carers and staff for heeding this direct instruction where this has been possible. We want it to stay this way for the time being as it is reducing the spread of the virus in our local community and literally saving lives. However, we do recognise that there are certain extreme circumstances when there is no other option, so we wanted to define these once again. For a child to be considered in need of emergency supervision at the school (or at another local school should there not be sufficient staffing levels available at Ryhall CE Academy), the following must apply:

1. Both parents or carers (or a lone parent) are in essential critical work and/or the child is highly vulnerable and there is no other adult\* under 70 available to supervise them in the family home. \*(an appropriate 12-18-year-old may be suitable to supervise). We have previously sent out a list of those who are considered essential critical workers (this is also available at the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>). **Many parents working in these sectors identified may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. To clarify this point: if one parent is not a key worker then your child should be cared for at home. Government advice is 'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.'**
2. The child has not experienced symptoms themselves and nor any person they have been in direct contact with over the last 14 days. If they have, they must self-isolate for 14 days *from the day the symptoms started*, including staying away from school.
3. We have been notified by 3pm on the working day (i.e. Monday to Friday) preceding emergency care being required.

Where all the above apply, we can offer emergency supervision during the hours of 9am-3.30pm on the days of Monday to Friday. Should emergency supervision be needed please email myself at [head@ryhall.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:head@ryhall.rutland.sch.uk) and Mrs Jesson at [djesson@ryhall.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:djesson@ryhall.rutland.sch.uk) and do not send your child to school unless one of us has given our approval – please give us a telephone number on which to contact you on the email. You will be asked for direct proof that *both* parents are essential critical workers and required to work on the date(s) on which emergency provision is required. Please recognise that permission will only be granted when every other possibility has been ruled out. Please be aware that during the provision social distancing procedures will be applied as far as possible to protect both child, your family and the staff and their families involved. We appreciate that many parents/carers are having to work from home and this in itself proves challenging with younger children around but this does not warrant the emergency provision being used. I need to make it very clear once again that this school provision is an emergency service only and not an education provision. These are extreme times and we want to support all individuals within our school community, whatever your circumstances, but we know the Prime Minister is right and we must stay at home. If no pupil were in school that would be the best for our staff and the whole local community but where it is absolutely essential in the fight against the virus, we are able to help.

**Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives**

Yours faithfully

Ms Walker



Headteacher