



Our Ref: CV5
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Sent on behalf of Catherine Driscoll, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First and Dr Kathryn Cobain, Director of Public Health at Worcestershire County Council

Critical Workers Childcare Arrangements

To all you critical workers out there thank you from all of us. We will do what we can to help you and to ensure you are enabled to do your job whilst your children are kept safe.

Schools, early years, colleges and other settings in Worcestershire have a key role to play, alongside other partners, in meeting our priority to preserve life, prevent the spread of Covid-19 and keep critical services going.

We are committed to enabling those workers, critical to the response to coronavirus, to attend their workplace over the coming weeks and months.

If you are one of those workers and if you cannot keep your child/children at home, we will provide a safe place for them, when you are at work.

We can only do this if everyone uses this provision only when they really need it.

Please consider this as an option of last resort!

If you have other safe options for your child/children then please use them.

The best way for us to help prevent the spread of this infection is for children to be at home when it is safe to do so. This enables social distancing and prevents the spread of infection to you and your family. **This will preserve life.**

Children who cannot be safely looked after at home, are vulnerable, or need specialist support will be provided for.

This provision is limited and may become more challenging to deliver over time as we are responding to the spread of this virus. Schools may need to share provision and work as hubs if they have too few staff to open safely.

Worcestershire's schools and education settings will be trying to operate on the following principles:

- When it is safe for them to do so the best place for every child in Worcestershire is to be at home. This will help to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
- We will provide a safe place for the children of those workers critical to the response to coronavirus if their children cannot safely stay at home.
- Provision is limited and will only be sustainable in the coming weeks and months if people use this as an option of last resort
- Where only one parent/carer is a 'critical worker', please consider keeping your child/children at home with the other parent/carer
- Critical workers may need to provide evidence with ID or similar
- Provision may be at a different site to your child's usual school

Regards

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