

Dear Parent/Carer,

07-01-21

I am writing to update you regarding our arrangements for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. As noted in my earlier letter, we would review this on a regular basis. As you are aware, the Welsh Government decided that schools would continue with online learning due to the rising number of new cases of COVID-19 which is putting considerable pressure on the health service.

Following discussions with Cllr. Emlyn Dole, Leader of the Council and Cllr Glynog Davies, the Executive Board Member for Education and Children's Services we have now reviewed our 'list' of critical workers who are able to access on-site provision. A decision has been made to follow the guidance provided by Welsh Government, full details can be found on their website [gov.wales/identifying-children-critical-workers-guidance](http://gov.wales/identifying-children-critical-workers-guidance).

We are asking schools to make this on-site provision available from Monday, January 11.

Wales is currently in the highest level of restrictions and we must try to limit the interaction between individuals as much as possible to restrict the transmission of the COVID-19 variant.

Therefore, it is vital that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. It is important to remember that family or friends are now able to help with childcare, which was not the case back in March.

We must protect our learners, staff and their families by minimising the number of children attending school at this time, so we are urging parents to please consider very carefully whether it is absolutely essential that your child receives a place.

Being included on the list does not mean workers in these categories can or will send their children to school. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept safely at home.

Parents should not apply for places if they are not scheduled to work and have not exhausted all other possible childcare options; for example, some parents may be able to amend their usual working arrangements to address childcare needs, or they or their partner are able to work from home.

This provision is available during usual school hours for primary pupils and for pupils aged 12 or younger in secondary schools, as well as for pupils that attend specialist provision or pupil referral units.

Children will be able to access their distance learning within the school setting, so it is important that they bring any work packs provided by their teacher, as well as their IT equipment etc if it has been provided by the school. Pupils will also need to bring in a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will receive payments during this time, further information can be found on the [council website](#).

Your school will provide you with a booking form, places will need to be booked in advance so that schools can make sure they have adequate staffing in place.

I would like to thank you once again for your co-operation and support.

Your sincerely,

*Gareth Morgans*

**For all the latest information on schools including a comprehensive list of FAQs please visit our website [carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education](http://carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education).**

**Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc**

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MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English

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