



St Joseph's Specialist Trust

Amlets Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7DH

Executive Principal: Annie Sutton

'Specialists in Communication & Interaction'

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Dear Families,

The good news is that staff employed at St Joseph's Specialist Trust are classed as Key Workers/Critical Workers.

We are therefore going to continue to try our very best to remain open and operating as close to normal running.

We will be affected by staff shortages as staff continue to need to self-isolate. The unpredictable nature of these absences along with the time restriction of 7-14 days minimum is already proving to be a significant challenge to manage.

If we need to partially close or completely close from time to time we will tackle this situation in much the same way as closures due to Snow Days, with every intention of re-opening as often as we can.

I will of course, continue to keep you fully updated as things progress.

The following two documents issued from the DfE provide the clarity we were looking for:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Key statements in this document:

Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

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Charity Number: 1177680

5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible

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 childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#critical-workers>

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get back in touch with me

Best wishes – stay healthy

Annie Sutton

Executive Principal