

GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS



In line with Government policy, from Monday 23 March all schools across the UK will be expected to close as a response to the coronavirus pandemic, and only be open to provide care for the children of key workers and certain vulnerable groups.

At Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) we are following this government advice, which stresses that people should stay at home wherever possible, and their definition of key workers. These are listed as:

- Frontline health and social care staff including the distributors of medicines and vital equipment
- Teaching staff, nursery staff and social workers
- People working in vital public services such as justice system, death registry workers, journalists in public service broadcasting
- Government workers in local or national administrations in occupations needed to deliver the Covid-19 response and pay benefits
- Food production and processing workers including sales and delivery staff
- Transport workers operating services not shut down during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities workers including all power, water, sewerage, chemicals
- Postal workers, key telecommunications staff, bank workers

The definition in this instance of vulnerable children is those who have a social worker, and those with educational health and care plans.

If, due to extreme circumstances, any other individual case has to be considered, this will be at the sole discretion of each Principal, who at all times will take in to account the health and safety of school staff in managing this situation.

For all other children, the school will provide work to be completed at home via their usual online systems or hard copies of packages of work.