

# St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **RE: St Matthew Academy Key Workers – COVID -19.**

We have now received further guidance from the government and local authority and are in a position to share more details with you.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, but have asked **schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The Government has confirmed a list of the key workers:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

The Academy will remain open to our pupils whose parents are in the above categories – full details can be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**If workers think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

Please, therefore follow these key principles:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or who are critical workers, then educational provision will be available for them.**
- Parents should not rely on childcare from those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

☎ : 0208 853 6250 ✉ : [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) 🌐 : [www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk) 🐦 : @stmattacad

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- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.
- If you would like your child to attend the provision, the Academy will need to see identification to confirm your child's eligibility. Please email the Academy at [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) with a photo of your work ID including your child's name or visit reception by 1.00pm Friday 20 March 2020.
- Parents **MUST NOT** just send their children to the Academy without receiving confirmation that their child is eligible.
- We will be providing an extended day for pupils, therefore, for the children of confirmed key workers, the following will apply:
  - The school will be open to pupils from 8.15am arriving no later than 8.40am
  - The Academy will dismiss pupils at 3.00pm, an extended provision until 4.15pm can be arranged for those who need it.
  - Pupils will be required to be on site each day and can be collected from 3.00pm
  - Providing breakfast and lunch for pupils each day, free of charge
  - Pupils may attend in their own clothes if they wish, however secondary pupils must wear their lanyards at all times for the purpose of identification
  - All pupils should bring clothes/trainers to enable them to take part in PE activities.

The Academy will expect all pupils to adhere to the Academy behaviour policy at all times whilst on site and failure to do so may result in the provision being cancelled

Pupils will also be expected to attend every day unless prior arrangements are made, for example if you only require the provision certain days of the week due to shifts or contracts – the Academy must be made aware of this in advance.

We are still awaiting further guidance from the government regarding Free School Meals and will be in touch with you as soon as procedures for vouchers or collection point are confirmed. In the meantime if your child would like to have their Free School Meal, they should arrive at the Academy by 12.00pm with their Id and lanyard.

Please remember, for those of you whose pupils are at home during this period, staff can be contacted via email on [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) and staff will do their utmost to answer any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully

**Ms M Baldwin**  
**Headteacher**

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