



Carlisle Schools' Partnership – Open Letter to Parents.

25th March 2020

Childcare for Front-line Key Workers & Identified Pupil Groups During School Closure.

Dear Parents,

The Headteachers from the Carlisle Schools' Partnership have been working together with Cumbria County Council to establish a sustainable model to deliver essential childcare for front-line and key workers in this time of national emergency. You will no doubt understand that this has been a quickly evolving situation in light of daily updates from Government. These are unprecedented times.

A strategic decision has been taken to establish two 'hub schools' which will provide childcare for pupils from across the area. This will have ongoing involvement of staff from each school. This model is being mirrored across Carlisle.

From Monday 30th March, Great Orton pupils who are eligible for essential childcare, will be cared for at Robert Ferguson Primary School.

As per Government advice, please keep your child at home if this is possible.

School staff from across the cluster will help to establish the hubs. We cannot guarantee, however, that childcare will always be undertaken by Great Orton staff. All volunteer staff will be placed on a rota, which is being developed to ensure the hubs are sustainable over time.

Cumbria County Council, under direction from Central Government, consider the hub model to be the sustainable way to ensure ongoing childcare provision in the weeks ahead.

Children will experience a consistent quality of childcare, and staff will be on hand to ensure smooth transition to the new arrangements.

Some details are still to be finalised and we will send further information to you as soon as possible. The provision will be based around the usual school hours, however we aim to provide a service that will be more flexible so that pupils spend as little time in the provision as possible. Similarly, before school/after school provision is being explored and more information will follow from the Hub Schools once this is finalised.

Over the next two weeks, the emergency childcare provision will be for the pupils of critical key-workers only. Where EHCPs are in place, Headteachers will liaise with parents directly with regards to provision after Monday 13th April.

To ensure the safety of your child, pertinent details will be shared with specific and relevant leaders within the Hub. This will include contact details and medical information.

A streamlined booking system is in development, however at this time, you will need to liaise with your home school using the usual methods to let us know your childcare needs for the next two weeks. **Please inform your child's school of your need for emergency childcare during the next two weeks by 5:00pm, today, Thursday 26th March.** We understand the time implications of this, but require up to date information to plan accordingly.

Lunch options are being finalised, but it would be helpful if all pupils who attend could bring a packed lunch whilst this is set up. Children will fall under the policies and procedures of the hub school.

The Carlisle Schools' Partnership, under guidance from the County Council, will continue to support the critical roles of our key workers from Monday through providing this provision. Please only use this emergency childcare if it is absolutely necessary.

We understand that this change will be unexpected for some, however at this time of national emergency it is imperative that provision is maintained across the locality.

Yours sincerely

The Headteachers of the Carlisle Schools Partnership