

Date: 18 January 2021

Keeping our children safe and supporting our schools and early years settings during the current national lockdown: a message to all parents and carers

We are writing to thank you for all you are doing as parents and carers to support your children's learning, to update you on some key messages that affect all children, young people and families across South Gloucestershire and to ask you for your continued support of your school communities to keep everyone safe.

Please think carefully about sending your child to school

- Under the current national lockdown, **children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**
- In the face of the rapid rise in numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on our local NHS and care system, we all need to do everything we can to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible.
- Each of our schools are working in a set of very individual and different circumstances, so the places they can provide safely for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will vary, too and will be based on their risk assessments. **If you are critical workers, please talk to your child's school if you are able to alter your childcare arrangements and only send your child in when you are working.**
- Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) should also attend their school or college subject to risk assessments and through discussion with school leaders
- For the government guidance read more: [Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/children-of-critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

Dropping off and picking children up from school and early years settings

- Thank you for **staying home during this national lockdown** and only leaving home for essential reasons. Please support your school, nursery or early years setting by following the arrangements they have in place for drop-off and pick-up times, especially when you have other children who you can't leave at home. Always remember Hands, Face, Space and not gathering outside with other parents and carers. Do not arrive early and leave the site promptly to avoid any unnecessary contact with others.

Free home learning support resources

- For all other students who are receiving remote education, the curriculum will look different because some subjects are much easier to deliver remotely than others. Your school or college will communicate their offer with you, what they expect and how parents/carers can access support and give feedback.
- You can find free online resources and activities through Integra Schools, a new online resource to support parents, carers and teachers. Find out more [here](#).

Department for Children, Adults and Health

Delivering for you

- Working with school, social care and health staff we have been identifying and supporting eligible families who need a device and/or access to the internet for their child to be able to complete school work at home. This means that we have been able to respond to all requests received so far. If you have any questions in relation to devices, please contact your child's school.

Thank you for continuing to help keep South Gloucestershire safe.



Stop the spread. **Do the right thing.**

South Gloucestershire
Council

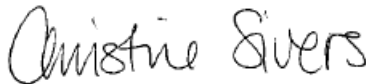
Delivering for you

STAY HOME ▶ KEEP SOUTH GLOS SAFE ▶ SAVE LIVES

www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus



Sara Blackmore,
Director of Public Health



Chris Sivers,
Director for Children, Adults and Health