

DENVER V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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7th January 2021

Provision for Critical Worker Children

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, schools are currently closed to all children, apart from critical worker/vulnerable children. As the article below highlights, many schools are struggling to cope with the high demand on places being sought from parents, and unfortunately we find ourselves in the same situation.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2021/01/demand-for-key-worker-places-outstripping-capacity-in-many-norfolk-schools>

We have two bubbles running in school for critical worker/vulnerable children: a YR/KS1 bubble and a KS2 bubble. Running two bubbles ensures that teaching staff have the necessary time to plan remote learning and deliver feedback. In order to maintain safety and social distancing measures, we are limited to having 15 children in each of our bubbles and yet we have had more than this number attend school today.

It is important that we know which children require places and on which days to monitor numbers, therefore please complete the attached form to indicate the sessions, morning and afternoon, your child/children need a critical care worker place. **This should only be on days that your child/children cannot be looked after by another adult at home.** For days where more than 15 children in each bubble require places, we will unfortunately have to prioritise places based on the following criteria:

- Both parents need to be critical workers – a list of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- NHS workers involved in COVID-19 health response, including vaccinations
- Police and emergency services; social care staff, and education staff providing for vulnerable groups and critical worker children

It may be the case that parents only work on a morning or afternoon, therefore please only request sessions that are necessary.



We do not want to be in a situation where we have to prioritise places, however for the safety of the children and staff in school this may be necessary.

We ask that you please complete the attached form and return, by email, by 9am tomorrow morning. We will then be in a position to let you know any days where we will be unable to provide a place for your child/children so alternative arrangements can be made.

We understand that there may be occasions where critical workers may have to change their working pattern due to staff shortages etc. If this happens, please contact the school in advance to see if your child/children can be accommodated. No-one should turn up at school unannounced as we will have to turn them away, except in exceptional circumstances.

I hope you understand the difficult position we find ourselves in and will support us in trying to safely provide care for those who need us most.

Yours sincerely

Louise Jones

Louise Jones
Headteacher



