



# Nethergate Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our school open since this crisis began and I would like to thank them for their remarkable commitment to our young people. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

The guidance from the government around support for parents of **ALL CHILDREN** (regardless of whether they have an EHCP or not) from Monday onwards, has been superseded and this letter outlines the current position (March 20<sup>th</sup> am).

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 remains clear. The government have requested these key principles are followed:

1. If it is at all possible for **children to stay at home safely, then they should do so**.
2. Parents should not rely for childcare on those 'who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category'. This includes grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
3. 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.

The Government has requested that all schools provide **optional** care for a **limited number of children**.

From Monday, the school will be offering some provision for the following groups of students **where we have capacity**:

- Children whose parents are key workers (see gov.uk).
- Those children described as "vulnerable children". These **could** be those who have a social worker and those with EHCPs, **but** only where it is safer for them to be at school than at home- we have a duty to limit social contact wherever possible to stop the spread of the virus.

**The key message to us all is that we need to minimise the risk by staying at home wherever we can.**

I hope you will recognise the difficult times schools and our staff now face. It is essential that we will all pull together to support our emergency services and key workers and you can do this by minimising your call on our limited reserves. Therefore, children who can be cared for safely away from school or would be safer at home due to their medical vulnerability or the vulnerability of someone in their home, should remain at home at this time.

**I must stress, schools are closed for public health reasons and this childcare is an **emergency** measure only.**

This remains an ever-changing situation and the position may well change again in the future. We will continue to update you as the need arises.

**Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Tracey Ydlibi  
Executive Principal