



"Inspiring Excellence"

Leeming RAF CP School
Gatenby
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 9NQ

Tel 01677 422675 Fax 01677 427149
admin@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
www.leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk

Headteacher – Mr. Rob Campbell

Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who have been responding to our Ping survey.

Myself and the Chair of Governors have had extensive engagement with the Station Commander this morning and can offer parents the following update.

It is the current understanding that the vast majority of personnel on station will not be classed as being key workers / critical personnel. The military are currently identifying, by name, all personnel that they consider to be critical either for the delivery of key national defence outputs, or for the essential military response to COVID-19.

All service personnel considered to be critical will be notified by their chain of command. If you have not received this notification, please work on the basis that you are not key workers and can remain at home with your child(ren) on Monday if needed.

Obviously, the situation is changing rapidly, and there may be personnel whose status as 'critical' will be reviewed and may alter. If this is the case, school and station are working in partnership to ensure that provision is made, or would no longer be made, to reflect these changing parameters.

Similarly, contractors working on station (cleaners, chefs etc.) will be receiving guidance and instruction about whether they are critical to the station's functioning. This will come through station engagement with their management. It is not anticipated that the whole contractor workforce will be considered to be essential personnel.

There has been some discussion in the media about whether or not a child should be in school where only one parent is a key worker. Unless and until the government stipulate something different formally, the school will abide by the statement: "many parents working in [critical] sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**" Thus, if one parent is a key worker and the other is not, the child can be safely cared for by the non-critical partner, and should not therefore be in school.

We will therefore be open on Monday for:

- 1) Children with an EHCP
- 2) Children who are supported by Social Care, including those on Child in Need and Child Protection Plans
- 3) Children of **single parents** considered as key workers
 - a. In the case of service personnel, this category only applies if parent has been notified by chain of command that they are critical [This list will be cross referenced with station]
- 4) Children in families in which **both parents** are considered as key workers
 - a. In the case of service personnel, this category only applies if parent has been notified by chain of command that they are critical [This list will be cross referenced with station]

Please note: parents must be able to demonstrate that their role is critical to the provision of essential services / supplies for the nation's security - for instance, working in a café does not qualify as 'key work' – in spite of the fact that this could be defined as 'sale of food' etc.

I will remind parents again that, even if your child does come under one of the 4 categories above, you are advised by the government to **keep them away from school wherever possible**. Whilst we will make provision for them to be in school, this is not the best place for them to be, and increases the risk of infection.

In addition, pupils who have to come into school, knowing their peers are not on site, will face their own challenges in terms of wellbeing and mental health. We cannot, for example, ensure that children with an EHCP are supported by their usual adults or will be working with their usual teachers. This could be incredibly disconcerting for some of our most vulnerable or high needs pupils. However, that said, please know we will do everything in our power to ensure that every child in our care is given a secure and happy place to be during this unique situation. Pastoral care has never been more important, and this will be our highest priority going forward.

Parents – thank you so much for your proactivity and support thus far. I know many of you are facing real challenges, and that the lack of school provision for your children will add to these. This is a unique situation, and we will do our very best to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible in the days and weeks ahead.

I am required to continue to reiterate the government's guidance that only children who "absolutely need to attend" should be in school on Monday, and "every child who can safely be cared for at home should be". We will miss them, but look forward to seeing everyone back together once this crisis abates.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Campbell', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Rob Campbell