



1st February 2021

Dear families with at least one critical worker,

As you can imagine, I regularly revisit and edit our risk assessment at school to support us to keep everyone on site as safe as possible. The guidance is very clear from government: parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. In the spirit of this guidance and the continued number of cases in our local area, we are asking that all parents who have requested a place do so, only on those days when their children cannot be at home.

We have presently offered children to be in school all day when their parent/carer is at work, regardless of shift pattern, to support the children having a full day's teaching and learning: it would be a little trickier if sessions need to be completed before starting school or at the end of the day if children only attended for part days. However, with place requests increasing in school, we may have to soon move to an offer of only covering the hours you are at work, for the children in school. Thank you if you have already supplied your shift pattern; we will be contacting you for clarity if we do not already hold this information. I will also contact you again in the near future if we have to move to part days in school. If there are changes you can make to the requested days you have already made, please let me know.

I have been asked by a couple of parents for information regarding support bubbles to help keep children learning from home. I hope the information below, which has been lifted from the government guidance, is useful:

Childcare bubble

If you live in a household with anyone aged under 14, you can form a 'childcare bubble'. This allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare.

What a childcare bubble is

A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.

Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.

You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.

You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.

Love



If you form a childcare bubble, it's best if this is with a household who live locally. This will help prevent the virus spreading from an area where more people are infected.

How childcare bubbles relate to support bubbles

A childcare bubble is different to a [support bubble](#). Being in a childcare bubble does not stop you from forming a support bubble [if you are eligible](#).

You must avoid seeing members of your childcare and support bubbles at the same time.

What a support bubble is

A support bubble is a support network which links 2 households. You have to meet certain eligibility rules to form a support bubble. This means not everyone will be able to form a support bubble.

Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in one 'household'. It means you can have close contact with the other household in your bubble as if they were members of your own household. This means you do not need to maintain social distance with people in your support bubble.

You should continue to follow [social distancing guidance](#) with people outside of your household or support bubble. This is critical to keeping you, your family and friends as safe as possible.

If you form a support bubble, it is best if this is with a household who live locally. This will help prevent the virus spreading from an area where more people are infected.

Who can make a support bubble

Not everybody can form a support bubble. However, on 2 December the rules changed to widen eligibility for forming one.

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020

You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble.



Just to confirm, we can only have children in school if they are vulnerable or if at least one parent/carer is a critical worker and then only on working days and if they are unable to be schooled from home.

Many thanks for your co-operation with this. We look forward to receiving your shift patterns and we will let you know if we will be changing our teaching in school to match these.

Regards



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

