



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs L Walton** BA (Hons)



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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you regarding the issue of school closures.

The guidance on maintaining educational provision was published last night and it establishes some key principles that will help us plan for next week and beyond.

- The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear: **If children can stay safely at home, they should do, in order to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents (aged 70+), friends, or family members with underlying conditions
- 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 asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend
- The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable Children

The government defines vulnerable children as those who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with an EHCP. We have contacted these parents directly already.

The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.

Children whose Parents Are Key Workers

The governments' definition of sectors where employment could be crucial to the Covid-19 response can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

If you have confirmed with your employer that your job is critical to the Covid-19 response and you are not able to safely care for your child at home, please contact Mrs Maycock maycockd@jfcs.org.uk by midday on Sunday 22 March.

Yours sincerely

Mr J de Rijk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J de Rijk', written in a cursive style.

Head of School

The Ripley Academy