

Our Ref:

Please ask for:

Direct Line: 81

## Dudley School Closures – Covid-19 Update

### Messages for Mainstream School and Academies

Following the announcement by the government on **Wednesday 18th March 2020**, Dudley schools will be closing at the end of the school day today, **Friday 20th March**.

Some schools will remain open for pupils who are the children of key workers from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March or Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Your school will notify you. **The decision to open on either day is at the schools discretion and will be dependent on staffing levels and their ability to be able to open the school safely.**

Please see this guidance from the government to clarify whether you or your partner are a "key worker" under the current directive:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

For children who are classed as "vulnerable," schools will also remain open. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker involvement with the family and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Children who have social worker involvement include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.

**Please note:** the government has specifically stated in their guidance to schools that ***'parents are to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked that schools are 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.

Thank you for your co-operation at this very difficult and challenging time.

Kind regards



**Catherine Knowles**  
Interim Director of Childrens Services

