



Harbinger School
Cahir Street
London E14 3QP
Tel: 020 7987 1924

e-mail: admin@harbinger.towerhamlets.sch.uk
website: www.harbingerschool.co.uk

Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Application for a critical worker place

As you are aware, on Wednesday the government announced that in some areas, including Tower Hamlets, primary schools will not fully reopen as planned at the start of term due to the surge in Coronavirus cases in the area. As in the first lockdown, the school will remain open for children whose parents are critical workers, or those children who are deemed to be vulnerable.

The government and the Department for Education have provided us with new guidance and criteria for each of these two categories. The school will contact the parents of children who may be considered 'vulnerable' directly before Wednesday.

However, if you would like to apply for a place for your child if one or both parents qualify for critical worker status, then the form attached to this letter must be completed and emailed back to me, at: nimesha@harbinger.towerhamlets.sch.uk by 11am on Monday 4th January at the latest. I appreciate that this may be a tight deadline, but we do need to know the number of children we will have in school to be able to fully plan for their safe return on Wednesday.

You will see on the form that you are required to detail which of the government criteria your job falls under, the name of your employer and your role. Below you will see the criteria set by the government for critical worker status. Please note that these are set by the government in response to a public health crisis, and not at local or school level, and that therefore we are bound to adhere to these.

The government criteria are as follows:

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers



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Head of School: Nimesha Nagahawatte
Deputy Headteacher: Matthew Warhurst
School Business Manager: Mai-Anh Dien



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- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)



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- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

You will find the form which needs to be completed on the page below. Please return to me as explained above but do also please contact me via that email address if you do have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Nimesha Nagahawatte
Head of School



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Application for critical worker place

Please complete the following sections in as much detail as possible.

Name of child/children:

Child's class and year group:

Name of parent:

Parent contact telephone number:

Please state, from the government criteria listed above, which area of employment your job falls into:

Name of employer, and your job role within this company:

Please provide a name, address and telephone number of your employer:

If there are any further details you wish to provide about your employment of circumstances when applying for a critical worker place for your child, the please write them here:



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