

- Q. Should schools accommodate pupils from Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings i.e. nurseries and childcare settings?
- A. The government advice to continue to provide places for vulnerable children and those who have a parent or carer who is a key worker applies to all childcare settings as well as schools.
- Q. Who are 'vulnerable children'?
- A. Vulnerable children include those who are classed as Children in Care, children who are subject to either a CP or Child in Need Plan and those with an EHCP.
- Q. Are Local Authority officers working in Early Help 'key workers'?
- A. Yes, those working to support vulnerable families are 'frontline health and social care staff' under the government's definition of a Key Worker and should therefore be supported to continue to work to support others.
- Q. Can schools combine their efforts where only small numbers of pupils are seeking to attend?
- A. We hope to provide detail on hub arrangements shortly.
- Q. Should schools offer care beyond the standard school day?
- A. Wherever staffing capacity allows and particularly if schools were previously offering extended hours activities then this would be preferable to support key workers and the experiences of vulnerable children.
- Q. If we receive an In Year Application Form, do we still need to process it?
- A. Yes, parents can still secure a place at your school through the in year process, although they will only be able to take up the place during the restrictions if they are a key worker or their child is vulnerable in line with government advice. If offers are made to children who cannot take up the place immediately due to the restrictions, schools can consider these as exceptional circumstances and allow the offer to remain until they reopen to all students.
- Q. What should we do if we are unable to offer a place to a vulnerable child, or the child of a key worker?
- A. If you have a space available on your school role, an offer should still be made. If the school is unable to offer a place, parents should be directed to contact emergencyschoolplaces@kent.gov.uk who will help them find a school with a space.
- Q. Will parents still find out what primary/infant/junior school their child will be offered for next year on 16 April 2020?
- A. Yes. Schools have already completed all the necessary tasks to ensure we can make Primary school offers on 16 April.
- Q. Will the reallocation stages of the co-ordinated admissions round take place for children on our waiting list and late applications?
- A. Yes, but only if schools are able to complete ranking responsibilities in line with the email sent to all schools on 18 March by the Online Admissions team. These tasks can be completed outside of school premises as necessary, as long as staff apply the necessary Information Governance principles.
- Q. What will happen once waiting lists return to school following reallocation?
- A. Schools are currently still required to follow the requirements of the School Admissions Code and this year's admissions scheme, so provision will need to be made in schools to allow for offers to continue to be made from waiting lists as and when places become available. Where parents present to schools that have not taken part in the co-ordinated

admissions process and require a place for September 2020, these can still be offered a place under “post reallocation” rules but referred to the In Year team if the school has no places available.

Q. We have appeals lodged at the school by parents for September 2020 intake, will they still need to take place?

A. We are currently awaiting further advice from the Department for Education. In the meantime, we are encouraging anyone who still wishes to appeal to do so in the way described in their offer letter.

Q. What will happen to the Kent Test for entry into Kent Grammar schools in September 2021?

A. Applications for the Kent Test will not start to be collected until the beginning of June 2020. Parents and schools will be informed closer to the time if any adjustments need to be made to the Kent Test.

Q. If a child continues to attend school their parent is a key worker or they are vulnerable, will transport be provided?

A. If the child has already been assessed as eligible for free school transport, this will continue to be provided. It may not be possible to provide the same vehicle or driver that the child is used to travelling with and there may be some changes to public bus networks that impact their usual travel arrangements. It is also possible that there may be some unavoidable short term interruptions in transport while these changes are organised. We will work to keep these disruptions to a minimum.

If the child is not currently eligible for free school transport, parents will need to apply and transport will be provided if they meet KCC’s transport criteria.

Q. Will transport be provided if children are required to attend school during the Easter school holiday period?

A. It is expected in most scenarios that key workers will ensure their children are able to travel to school if they continue to attend through the Easter Holidays, as they would with any other child care arrangement during this time. However, we recognise that in these difficult times this may not always be possible, so parents can contact the Transport Eligibility team at homeschooltransport@kent.gov.uk if they are unable to organise their own transport during this period.

If parents or carers of vulnerable children require assistance in transporting children to school through the Easter Holidays, they are advised to contact their social worker to discuss their requirements further. If the child does not have a designated social worker, schools should contact homeschooltransport@kent.gov.uk for further advice.