

Ballakermeen High School

Chair of Governors: Mr Alex F Downie OBE



Head Teacher
Mrs. P. A. Burnett MA (Ed.) NPQH

St. Catherine's Drive
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 4BE
Telephone: 01624 648700
Email: bhsenquiries@sch.im
Website: www.bhs.sch.im

23rd March 2020

Re: Closure of Schools due to Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your patience at this difficult time. We very much appreciate your support and know that if we all work together, we have the best chance of reducing the spread of Covid-19.

The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children designated as 'vulnerable' or are the children of 'key workers'.

If you consider yourself a key worker AND you need your child to attend school, please message us at bhsenquiries@sch.im. If your working pattern or other circumstances mean that your child only needs to be with us for some days/times, please let us know the details. Please make sure that you include your child's full name and tutor group, so that we can easily access emergency details, if required.

We also need to know if any vulnerable children will be attending school going forward, i.e. those with complex needs, those in receipt of free school meals, those that have social worker involvement and those in care. Again please let us know if you need a continuation of schooling provision at the email address above, as soon as possible today.

This information will be treated in confidence and will only be used for this unique purpose.

It is important to understand that:

- If it is possible for children to stay at home then they should.
- Parents/carers should also do all they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that could spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- Many parents who are key workers may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely at home should be.**
- 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.
- Parents can choose to keep children away from school without any concern of repercussion

School catering services are experiencing high staff absence but are intending to provide packed lunches in school from Tuesday 24th March. Additional cleaning arrangements will also be put in place.

These are challenging times which require us to change the ways that we would usually conduct our daily lives and work. Teachers will be working to ensure that learning resources are available for your children during this time and will maintain contact with all children. Resources are available through "google classroom" and "Its Learning" platforms. Further information will also be added to our website.

Children who do attend school will not be required to wear uniform. This is because medical advice states that to minimise the spread of germs, clean clothes should be worn each day. We know this is a worrying time, so please message us via bhsenquiries@sch.im if you need any further information or help.

We really appreciate your support and hope you will help us in implementing the arrangements above.

Yours sincerely



P. A. Burnett,
Head Teacher

Work Sector	Schools – Key Workers with Access School Hub
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 Island’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 and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm’s 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, contractor and (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff.
Transport	This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the telecommunications sector (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 and waste disposal sectors.
General Guidance	If workers think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.