

COVID-19 BARROW SCHOOL HUBS'
(Chetwynde, St Pius X and Vickerstown)

Dear Parents/Carers,

BARROW SCHOOL HUBS' CHILDCARE PROVISION

Our schools (Chetwynde, St Pius X and Vickerstown) will remain open as School Hubs to provide essential childcare for families in the town. We will only be offering childcare for families that meet the criteria of critical workers or for children that are vulnerable. **Initially, we are only collecting childcare requirements for Easter holiday period.**

We have worked hard to provide extra clarity and consistency around the critical worker list. The Government's definition of a 'critical worker' and a 'vulnerable child' is extensive and unless we prioritise, we may not be able to support the families and workers that require this help the most. We have used the [Government's official guidance for schools](#) which includes Government's official list of critical workers to put critical workers into a tiered system from Tier 1 to 4 (see below). The Headteachers of the School Hubs will make their decisions based on level of need to identify how many tiers we are open for and this may change on a daily basis. Please note that each hub is limited to ten places. Therefore, there are only thirty places across Barrow.

Current government guidance regarding eligibility for the childcare is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can **potentially** send their children to school if required. However, our criteria is that **both parents must be critical workers (unless there are exceptional circumstances)** and **we must emphasise** that the government guidance also states that, **"many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be"**. Therefore, this childcare must only be for the days/times you definitely need it, so the information you include on your form (see link below) will be essential. Please note we will be prioritising single parents and families who have two parents or carers on the critical list. **We will apply the tier criteria until we have reached capacity (see paragraph above).** **Parents who bring their children to hubs and unaccompanied children, who are not deemed to be eligible or just turn up will be turned away.**

We are asking parents to complete the form found via this link: <https://forms.gle/dziyVZfwxKtSJoGU8> to give us information about your situations and why you require childcare. **The deadline to complete the form is 12 noon on Wednesday 1st April.** A robust screening process and strict criteria is in place and the Headteachers of each School Hub will screen the applications personally. If you are a critical worker, we will be asking you to provide proof of employment (payslip, contract or identity badge). In addition, the form will ask you to give us contact details including full name, telephone number and email address of your supervisor so we can confirm that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances (this will only be applied when we are unsure). We may also need to get in touch with you via telephone to gain some extra clarification.

All School Hubs will be open from **9am-3.30pm (3pm for Vickerstown)**. There will be flexibility within these hours for those parents and carers that work shifts i.e children can be dropped off later than 9am and be collected earlier than 3/3.30pm.

Please note, the current guidance around self-isolation regarding symptoms of coronavirus including a temperature of over 37.8°C and/or a persistent cough are still in force. We will have to make some difficult decisions and hold some incredibly challenging conversations with families who are understandably under immense pressure. We ask that you please work with us and not against us as we do this.

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Barrow Hubs' 'Critical Workers' Tiered List

Tier 1 (in no particular order)	Tier 2 (in no particular order)	Tier 3 (in no particular order)	Tier 4 (in no particular order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctors • Nurses • Midwives • Paramedics • Social Workers • Care workers • NHS staff based in all hospital sectors • Machine workers producing medicines / medical personal protective equipment • Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who categorically cannot work from home • School staff and school catering staff who must remain active during the COVID-19 to deliver this approach* • Essential food / grocery distributors • Essential food / grocery processors / producers • Essential food / grocery delivery drivers • Essential food / grocery shop sales assistants • Police and support staff • Ministry of Defence civilians* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & social care supplies chain workers • Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who could work from home • Those involved in the production, distribution, sale and delivery of hygienic or veterinary medicines • Oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewerage) workers • National Crime Agency staff • Border security • Prison and probation staff • Other national security roles including those overseas • Waste disposal sector workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those running the justice system • Air, water and road workers • Freight transport workers operating through COVID-19 responses • Telecommunications technical support staff for 999 and 111 call centres • Specialist education professionals who aren't school based • Civil nuclear and chemical workers* • Network operation and field engineering workers • Payment providers • Charity workers providing support and relief in relation to COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious staff • Journalists providing public service broadcasting • Broadcasters providing public service broadcasting • Local and national government administrators delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arms-length bodies. • Rail passenger workers • Essential financial services provision (including but not limited to banks, building societies, financial market infrastructure) • Information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response • Postal services and delivery workers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor and armed forces personnel who are 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) • Workers responsible for the management of the deceased 			
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*** Workers in BAE and Sellafield have received direct emails if they are deemed to be critical workers. We will require a copy of this email.**

Barrow Hubs' 'Vulnerable Child' Tiered List (A child who is/has...)		
Tier 1 (in no particular order)	Tier 2 (in no particular order)	Tier 3 (in no particular order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EHCP • An assigned social worker • Currently Looked After 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young carer • Previously had an assigned social worker • Subject to an active Early Help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously been Looked After • Eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium

We will collate responses from the online form and we will inform parents who have a place by Friday 3rd April.

For children attending a hub, the following measures/precautions must be taken:

- Uniform must be worn which is fresh on – we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- Ensure children bring a coat, gloves (to handle outdoor equipment) and a water bottle.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be made available to the hub and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.
- Consent must be signed that covers a variety of health and safety, information storing and information sharing.
- We must register your child in and out of the hub by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus. Safeguarding measures apply (passwords).
- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must immediately contact the hub and arrange for immediate collection of your child.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not attending a School Hub if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection. We cannot emphasise this enough. This is to keep our staff safe.
- School Hubs must be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving the home and on entering the hubs.
- We expect all parents to sign an agreement.

Kind regards,

Mr Jefferson, Mr McGoldrick and Mr Holmes
Chetwynde, St Pius X and Vickerstown Headteachers