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Dear Parents and Carers

As a Trust we are committed to supporting the directive set out by the Government. The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**. The Government's medical advice is very clear, social distancing is by far the best way to protect our children. The best way to protect your children is for them to be at home and isolated from other young people. The request from Government to provide emergency educational cover is for exceptional cases where parents are involved in frontline activity. If a parent is able to cover then this should be the norm.

Young people and children who are being stood down from school should not be getting together outside the home and wandering the streets. Younger children should not be placed in groupings that would defeat the principles of social distancing.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a strictly limited number of children. **Children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response** and cannot be safely cared for at home. You may consider that young people (aged 15 and above) maybe responsible enough to be at home social distancing to allow you to undertake employment. However, this would need to be your decision in these extraordinary times.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**. Please follow the guidelines relating to childcare, to minimise the risk of exposure to adults with underlying health conditions or elderly relatives.

The key principles are:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as elderly relatives or family members with underlying conditions.

A list of critical works is defined below:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Child Care
- Key Public Service
- Local and National Government (linked to COVID-19)
- Food Supplies

- Public Safety and National Security
- Transport
- Utilities, Communication and Finance
- Key Workers
- Health Care
- Journalist and Broadcasters
- Religious Staff, Charities and Workers delivering frontline services

Please complete the online survey available on your child's school website as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Crosby
CEO | Hope Learning Trust, York