



# COVID-19 Closure Update Parents/Carers

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**



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## Introduction

Firstly, a huge thank you for your support and help during these challenging times and for ensuring that our community stays safe and well. The government advice states **"If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be"**. **Sending your child in otherwise, places them and our staff at increased risk.** We very much appreciate the effort parents and carers have made to find new ways of safely caring for their children at home. This will ensure that the overwhelming majority don't have to attend emergency childcare and risk exposure to the virus. However, if you are worried about your child or another child, or if you're finding it hard to cope at home, call Family Lives for free, confidential advice on 0808 800 2222. If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000. Or call the police on 999 if you think a child is in immediate danger.

The Evolve Trust continues to live out its core values, and this week particularly inclusivity, where we have been delivering food hampers to targeted families, ensuring that free school meals are still available and that all students who are classed as vulnerable receive regular phone calls throughout the week. All academies have a range of home learning activities that can be accessed either by online platforms such as Microsoft Teams or by providing work packs for children to take home.

We will continue to update parents, carers and other stakeholders with the relevant information from the government. This changes on a daily basis and in particular, advice to key worker families. Questions we must all ask include, could your child of secondary school age remain at home for all of the day? Does another adult with parental responsibility have the availability to support with childcare arrangements? If a viable solution can be found, there is no reason to send your child to school and put them at an increased risk of contamination. As parents/carers, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home. If you are at all unsure, the NSPCC recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 shouldn't be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

Today we are launching a voucher scheme to support our Free School Meal families and details for the voucher scheme are contained in the information below.

In these unprecedented times we will continue to work in the best interests of our families. If all viable solutions have been exhausted and you are a family in need of our support then please contact us through the [Covid19@evolvetrust.org](mailto:Covid19@evolvetrust.org) email address. We would also like to thank you for your kind messages of support and offers of help over recent weeks – it is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

The Evolve Trust

## Key Points:

- **Every child that can be safely cared for at home should be** (Government guidance 20.3.20 Section 1.8)
- For concerns around the care of children across the Trust, please email [Covid19@evolvetrust.org](mailto:Covid19@evolvetrust.org)
- Information about students' learning has and will continue to be sent separately via Weduc, Microsoft Teams or hard copies for our Free School Meal families. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, staff at Brunts will be adding work on to Teams against their class groups or hard copies which are available upon request.
- Where possible, all families are to use Microsoft Teams. If you have any technical issues regarding Teams, please contact [helpdesk@evolvetrust.org](mailto:helpdesk@evolvetrust.org).
- To contact our academies, communication can be through Weduc or through the phone switch board at The Brunts Academy and Bramble Academy. The Brunts Academy can also accept communication through Teams messenger. We will endeavour to reply to you within 24 working hours.

## Children of Key Workers

The Government has published the following list of Key Workers here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**The government has been keen to point out that the children of key workers should, where possible, still be kept at home.** "Many parents working in these critical sectors may still be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be".

**If at all in doubt about key worker arrangements, please email [COVID19@evolvetrust.org](mailto:COVID19@evolvetrust.org)**

## School Dinners

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR ELIGIBLE FSM FAMILIES: For the foreseeable future we will be providing Free School Meal vouchers to those families registered on our system. You will receive either an email or text message with a link which allows you to select a supermarket of your choice, vouchers can then be used either in-store or online. This will continue until the Government advises us otherwise. It is important that you contact us as a matter of urgency via [COVID19@evolvetrust.org](mailto:COVID19@evolvetrust.org) if your details have changed.

Please also see the recent guidance from the NHS supporting healthy eating <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/20-tips-to-eat-well-for-less/>

## Home Learning

The Trust will ensure that students are supported with educational based activities during the closure period. Our teachers will support the students with learning activities using remote learning platforms as much as possible.

Additional Home Learning:

- We have free access to [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk). Please ensure your child uses their usual username and password if they already have one or they can set up a new one if they don't.
- Sumdog is also another numeracy-based platform which you can access on <https://pages.sumdog.com/sign-up/>
  - o Sumdog is an online learning tool which provides personalised maths and spelling practice that children love. It adapts questions to each pupil, using engaging games and rewards for effort and achievement to build their confidence, and is proven to accelerate progress.

Other online resources include:

- BrainPop/Discovery Education/iReady/Creative Bug (all can be found through Google)

YouTube Channels include:

- Science Channel
- National Geographic Kids
- Geography Focus
- TheBrainScoop
- Crash Course Kids
- Kids Learning Tube

And don't forget the old classics to keep your children mentally active and entertained:

- Playing cards
- Board games
- Puzzles – sudoku, logic puzzles
- Reading and writing book reviews
- Self-taught first aid by St Johns Ambulance  
<https://www.sja.org.uk/globalassets/documents/dofe/dofeselfteachworkbook.pdf>
- Learning basic sign language

If you have any problems accessing Teams, then please email the [helpdesk@evolvetrust.org](mailto:helpdesk@evolvetrust.org). Also watch this video if you are unsure <https://youtu.be/W9kn1nrxn7g>

## External Exam information

The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer, following our actions to slow the spread of coronavirus.

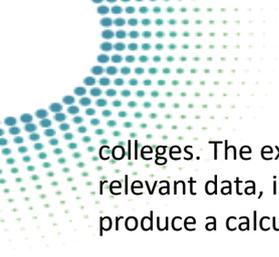
University representatives have confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

This years summer exam series, including A levels, GCSEs and other qualifications, and all primary assessments, have been cancelled as we fight to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Government has stated that their priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and



colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

### Easter Holiday

We are waiting for clarification from the Government about what services need to be available in School during the holiday period. We will update you when further details are available.