

4 January 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian

Key Worker Provision

As you are aware, the Government have initiated a phased return for years 7-13 whilst requesting that schools offer a provision for the most vulnerable children and those with both parents as critical key workers, who otherwise can't provide childcare. I'm sure you will understand that at this critical time, when infection rates are rising, we need to make further decisions around safety for all students and staff as well as the families of students and staff. We will also be using a limited area of the school building, with only a certain amount of ICT available. Therefore for these two reasons, we need to keep the number of young people in our Key Worker Provision to an absolute minimum.

To that end, whilst the school is not fully open, Sandwich Technology School is implementing the following criteria for those wishing to send their child in for Key Worker Provision.

- Parents must be classed as critical workers (see Government website for up to date list)
- Neither parent is able to complete shift work/work at home which would then provide necessary childcare
- Due to Government measures, no other adult is able to offer childcare

The student must fall into one of these categories:

- has an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- student is a young carer
- student is vulnerable due to being a Looked After Child and/or Child In Need (as deemed by Children's Social Services)
- at the school or local authority's discretion, students who have a high risk to their mental health

The Key Worker School that we will be providing differs to that offered in Spring school closure. Parents must be aware that:

- We will insist on social distancing and the use of a mask when in enclosed spaces.
- Students will not be in year group bubbles.
- Students will have access to a PC/internet and will, for the full school hours with break and lunch allocated, work through the resources they would be accessing were they at home. (This is so they have the same access to resources as their peers and there is a consistent approach to learning.)
- Students will be supervised by support staff but will not have face to face access to teaching staff. Any queries or questions, students will email staff who will get back to them, as they would if they were working from home.
- Students will be provided with lunch only (if the child is eligible for free school meals) or may bring in a packed lunch.
- Priority will be given to younger students in Key Stage 3, as those in upper years can be left safely alone at home.

Should you feel that your circumstances fit the above criteria and wish to request a place at Key Worker School, please contact Mrs Lucy Wanstall with the following information by 4.30pm on 4th January 2021.

- Name of student.
- Year group they are in.

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Kent CT13 0FA

Telephone: 01304 610000
Fax: 01304 610100

Email: admin@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk
www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk

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- Job role of one/both parent(s) that fits Critical Worker status.
- Reason why your child would be categorised as vulnerable.

From there we will consider if we are able to offer a place. Mrs Savage has contacted all parents to say that my communication and full details of criteria would be coming out today so any requests prior to receiving this will need to be resubmitted please.

We ask you to carefully consider whether there is a real need for your child to attend Key Worker Provision, or whether the child is in fact responsible enough and perhaps even safer working at home (either with parents, with another designated adult, or by themselves). We are aware that towards the end of the Spring school closure, we were receiving an increasing amount of requests from parents who felt their child was not completing enough work at home. Please note that such requests will not be accepted at this time.

Yours faithfully

Lucy Wanstall
Deputy Headteacher: Child Protection and Conduct