



Mel Meggs

Strategic Director for Children's
Services
1st Floor
Civic Centre 3
Market Street
HUDDERSFIELD
HD1 2EY

Tel: 01484 221000

Email: mel.meggs@kirklees.gov.uk

www.kirklees.gov.uk

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Dear parent/carer

As you know, the latest Covid-19 lockdown means the majority of children cannot attend school in person. Schools are only physically open to the children of critical workers and children who are classed as vulnerable.

Vulnerable children are the top priority because they are the most at risk of falling behind and experiencing other problems if they don't go to school. The next priority for schools is to offer places to the children of critical workers (please note this is the new government term for key workers).

However, many schools nationally – including in Kirklees - are reporting a very large number of requests for these places. We also know the new strain of Covid-19 is spreading quickly in many parts of the country and we are all under instruction to stay at home whenever possible. For these reasons, we are asking that critical workers should only request a school place if this is absolutely necessary for their child.

We must all play our part in reducing cases of Covid-19 and keeping our communities safe. If you are a critical worker who simply cannot keep their child at home, then clearly you should ask your school to accommodate them. If, however, your child can stay at home, please think carefully before asking for a school place.

Government guidance states that limiting attendance at school does not suggest schools have become significantly less safe. Instead, the decision is to help reduce the overall number of social contacts in our communities. The government is clear that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they are able to do so.

We understand that these are incredibly difficult times and, as we move through the latest lockdown, there is a wide range of help and advice for Kirklees families. You can find out more by visiting the council website. If your child is learning at home and is lacking vital equipment such as a laptop, you may qualify for support. For details, please contact your school direct.

Finally, thank you for supporting your school and for playing your part in the battle against Covid-19. We hope you and your family stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Meggs".

Mel Meggs
Strategic Director for Children's Services