



Notification: Additional applications for Critical Worker places have been paused from Monday 11th January at 2:00pm.

Context

At the time of writing, Wolverhampton has the highest COVID infection rates in the Black Country; Wolverhampton is 4th highest in England with the infection rate in the city at 1021 per 100,000. These infection rates are exceptionally high.

As you will appreciate, schools have a legal obligation to protect their employees, and others including children, from harm and have considered the significant local rates of transmission and the new strain of the virus when putting in place additional control measures in their Risk Assessment. Maintaining a distance between people while inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face-to-face contact lowers the risk of transmission.

Critical Worker Provision is 'paused' to any additional applications for places

St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy has once again accommodated high numbers in onsite provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, during the national lockdown (January 2021). However, the Academy would be unable to safely adhere to their risk assessment, and the risk assessment of the Multi Academy Company, should the numbers increase further. Therefore, **applications for additional critical worker provision are paused as of Monday 11th January 2:00pm.** This will be reviewed regularly. We would remind you that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Should you no longer require a place on site during this lockdown, please notify the school via the school office email stanthonysoffice@cloudw.co.uk If you are a parent / carer of a vulnerable child and would appreciate additional support - again, please contact via email.

Next steps

If you have serious concerns about not having access to onsite provision and you are a critical worker, you may complete the following form and the MAC will consider whether provision may be available at another school elsewhere in the MAC. This will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and priority will be given to children of NHS workers. <https://forms.gle/Cc4Tv6aWHhP99sC1A>

If you believe that your child is eligible for a place in school as they are at risk due to a 'vulnerable child' status, maybe due to a change of circumstance, then you must not avoid communicating this and you must inform the school directly.

Finally, this decision has not been taken lightly and please be assured that our school community is at the heart of this decision. We will continue to review this situation and hope to welcome more children back as soon as possible. Once again, we remain grateful for the incredible support of parents, staff and children.

Mrs T Davis (Head Teacher)