



11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Updated guidance for Special Provision

Last Friday, the DfE updated its guidance relating to students using special provision for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. The full guidance document is [here](#).

The substantive change is that parents of critical workers are now advised that **“You should keep your child at home if you can”**.

The guidance also confirms that schools should not place a limit on the number of special provision places offered, however the school may ask to see simple evidence to check the status of critical worker parents who choose to use the special provision (such as a work ID badge or a pay slip).

This change to guidance has been prompted by the large number of special provision places being taken nationally, especially in primary schools, and in response to concerns that the impact on the community transmission of the virus is becoming less effective with so many students remaining in schools (over 50% in some schools).

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, we have a provision of around 35-50 students daily and our hard-working staff are managing this well. We have not needed to consider limiting numbers at this stage and the number we have allows us to ensure that full social distancing measures are in place, along with our other risk control measures (now including lateral flow testing).

If, following this new advice, parents of critical workers **no longer** wish to use our special provision, then please email the school office. Please note that if your child has been specifically invited into school, this guidance change has no impact on the availability of their special provision place.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher