Education, Learning and Skills

**Early Years and School Improvement Service**

The Langdale Centre

Langdale Gardens

Howdon

WALLSEND

Tyne and Wear

NE28 0HG

[www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk)

Telephone number (0191) 643 8500

This matter was dealt with by

D Buckle, Assistant Director of Education

3 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

**North Tyneside LA Emergency Locality Hubs First and Primary Schools**

The government are currently asking schools, nurseries, childminders and other registered childcare settings **to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children** where they can.

It is understood that some schools may be unable to do so, especially if they are experiencing severe staff shortages, as the national COVID-19 emergency continues. Local areas may use neighbouring schools and childcare providers to continue to support vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

In North Tyneside, emergency contingency arrangements have been made by the LA in partnership with all schools, to ensure that your child can still attend school, in any circumstance.

**In your locality, a small number of headteachers have agreed to offer emergency accommodation for your child’s school should they need it**. These schools are in key areas where more places are needed or where they are closer to NHS sites.

**What if my child’s school needs to go to an emergency locality hub school?**

**Should your child’s school be unable to be open, your headteacher will contact you** and arrange for your child(ren) to use a classroom and facilities at one of the emergency locality hubs schools, along with a small number of staff from their own school who know your child. The visiting staff and children will not mix with those at the host locality hub or be part of their daily activities, to reduce the risk of infection. Social distancing guidelines will be followed in classrooms and DFE guidelines followed for this. Safeguarding your child remains our priority.

**What should I do to prepare for the possibility of a locality hub school plan?**

* It is really important that you talk to the staff at your school, in order that your child knows that they will be safe and be with staff and pupils that know them wherever they are.
* Make sure that your school has at least 2 emergency contact numbers for you and that you have made contingency plans for out of school hours where possible. If you are not able to do this, please talk to your school as soon as possible.
* Make sure that any medication in school is up to date and that consent forms are signed.
* Arrange for your child to be taken to the emergency locality hub school that your headteacher has a partnership with, and for your child picked up from there. Times will be given by your headteacher. If you are not able to provide transport, please let your headteacher know as soon as possible.
* If you have any queries, please discuss them with your child’s school.

We hope that any schools who need to use this emergency arrangement will soon be able to return to their own site. The school will keep in touch with you.

If you require nursery places, please refer to North Tyneside Council website where the register of nurseries and childminders is being kept up to date.

Emergency arrangements at Middle and High schools have also been made and they will contact you if needed.

Please make sure that you let your school know if your situation changes.

We are all facing challenges in this crisis and together we will be stronger.

Best wishes



Diane Buckle

Assistant Director of Education