



**Lynette Lovell**  
**Prif Swyddog Addysg Dros Do**  
**Interim Chief Education Officer**

**Atebwch os gwelwch yn dda /Please reply to:**

Gwasanaeth Ysgolion / Schools Service  
Cyngor Sir Powys / Powys County Council  
Neuadd y Sir / County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys LD1 5LG

*Os yn galw gofynnwch am / If calling please ask for*

*Ffôn / Tel:* 01597 826630

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*E-bost / Email:* [Lynette.Lovell@powys.gov.uk](mailto:Lynette.Lovell@powys.gov.uk)

*Eich cyf / Your ref:*

*Ein cyf / Our ref:*

*Dyddiad / Date:* 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

### **School Closures in Powys and Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Welsh Education Minister Kirsty Williams announced that schools would close by March 20 but some would have a role for the children of essential workers and indicated that further details will follow.

In Powys we are trying to manage this in phases. Powys schools will remain open next on Monday and Tuesday, but only to provide childcare for essential workers, vulnerable children and those with a social worker. Please do not send your child to school if your child does not fall into these categories. Early years settings will remain open as usual.

Therefore, on Monday and Tuesday we are hoping to have low numbers attending schools. The reason that we are doing this is that we are trying to create the space to work with headteachers about how best to make provision during a time when there will be widespread illness across the county, with reduced staffing available to maintain essential services.

We will ensure that pupils who are entitled to free school meals are able to have those meals. School canteens will provide packed lunches on Monday and Tuesday to be picked up at your child's school by 12pm. We are currently working with national government to work out how best to provide free school meals for the duration of the emergency.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

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1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then childcare provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for childcare provision:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

For further details visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**Please note, this is the UK Government list and will be subject to any future decisions made by Welsh Government.**

We will keep you updated using the following social media:

[www.facebook.com/powyscc](http://www.facebook.com/powyscc)

[www.powys.gov.uk/cspowys](http://www.powys.gov.uk/cspowys)

[www.twitter.com/powyscc](https://www.twitter.com/powyscc)

[www.twitter.com/cspowys](https://www.twitter.com/cspowys)

[www.twitter.com/powyseducation](https://www.twitter.com/powyseducation)

Current Advice to the Public: Symptoms If you have to stay at home follow self-isolation advice on Public Health Wales.

**You should only contact 111 if:**

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

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### **Current Advice to the Public Regarding Infection Control**

To protect yourself and other people:

- wash your hands with soap and water more often, and do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- If you have been asked to stay indoors and avoid contact with other people follow the self-isolation advice.

More information is available from <https://phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus>

### **Links to more Information**

Public Health Wales

Welsh Government

UK Government

Business support

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

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