



All Saints' Primary School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ref: Emergency Support for Children of Key Workers.

On Thursday 19th March the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, made a statement outlining how schools will close for all staff from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March. However, schools are asked to be available to open from Monday 23rd March to support identified Key Workers' children. All Saints' PS are hoping to be in a position to open for children of identified key workers from Tuesday 24th March but we will confirm that ASAP on Monday 23rd March.

The recent advice on how to reduce the risk of and limit the spread of Covid-19 is clear. **If children can safely stay at home, they should do so, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** Therefore, children must be looked after at home where this is at all possible.

It is important that we are aware of how many children will require this service from Tuesday 24th March because of social distancing requirements and a fast reducing workforce. All Saint's will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day and will be offering a 'childminding' type service through this period.

If you think you meet the 'key worker' criteria and intend to send your child to school, please let us know by (1) email to abradley561@c2kni.net by 5.00pm on Saturday 21st March or (2) by phoning the school on 028 8224 3233 between 9.00am and 12pm on Monday 23rd March. We will ask you to let us know which category of 'key worker' criteria you fall into and once the information is received, a decision to offer a place will be made.

If emailing or phoning please state:

- Your name & key worker job
- Your children's names and classes
- Day/s you may require childcare support next week (excluding Monday 23rd)

Points to consider in line with the Education Minister's advice:

- If you are a KEY WORKER, alternative childcare arrangements should be sought before deciding to send your child to school. You must be in an emergency situation where no family members, e.g. husband, wife, partner, older children, extended family members or friends cannot support. Sending children in to school should only be a last resort for key workers' children. This is to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.

- If you are a part time key worker, you must only use the service for the hours you need.
- If you are able to work from home to accommodate this situation, please do so.
- We are still awaiting guidance on vulnerable children from the minister. Vulnerable children are those currently defined as those who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by The Children (NI) Order 1995
- We have a limited number of places available due to the need to maintain safe social distances and places will be allocated on a priority basis in line with the categories of what would be defined as a key worker by the Education Minister as follows;
 - **Health and Social Care.** This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
 - **Education and childcare.** This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response
 - **Public safety and national security.** This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
 - **Transport.** This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
 - **Utilities and Communication.** This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
 - **Food and other necessary goods.** This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical etc.)
 - Other **workers essential to delivering key public services**
 - Key **national and local government** including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

Sending children to school could potentially facilitate the spread of this virus, so please only use the service as a last resort. In our planning to manage the current situation, we want to do our best to ensure that you and your family are protected as far as possible so please be patient with us as we all work together as a school community to get through this crisis with God's help.

We hope your family is doing well and keeping safe during this difficult time.

Anthony Bradley

Mr Anthony Bradley
Acting Principal

Aidan Taggart

Mr Aidan Taggart
Board of Governors Chair.