



Kingsmills Primary School

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Principal: Mrs G Harrison

Education Authority Southern Region

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent

Update – Pupils of key workers

We are endeavouring to follow the guidelines on COVID-19 as published by the Government, the Department of Education Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the respective Unions.

Our message to you is that children should NOT be in school if at all possible and certainly not unless they meet the criteria below.

Key worker parents requiring care provision:

On 19 March the Education Minister announced some key changes which will affect the children of key workers (defined in Appendix I) from 23 March 2020.

Children who have a key worker parent, are entitled to send their child to school, however we would stress the following:

- We would reiterate that if other arrangements become available, these should be pursued as the recommended course of action;
- If your child, or anyone in your household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or other illness, you need to follow the recommended self-isolation guidelines and not send your child to school;
- School will only be open for standard school hours being 8:40am to 2:30pm;
- Pupils will be required to wear full school uniform;
- Teachers will be performing childcare duties only;
- Pupils may bring their Learning Packs to complete in school;
- Please provide a snack and packed lunch for your child as there is currently no planned provision of ordinary school meals;
- The provision of school service is subject to change depending on the continued availability of staff, taking into account their health and wellbeing;
- School is presently intended to close for Easter from 12pm Wednesday 8th April.

I would stress however that there is no requirement for identified key worker parents to send their children to school. Many parents working in the identified key workers list may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. We would encourage you to do

this if at all possible. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, as we believe this is the safest environment for them to be in and reduces the level of social contact in school.

If you are a parent of a pupil and you believe you are a key worker, as defined, who will need to send your child to school, please inform me by 6pm on Sunday 22nd March. Please contact via email: gharrison869@c2kni.net

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of my staff during this difficult time. You will see from the packs that have been sent home today that they have been working hard to provide continuity to the provision of education at this time.

We the staff would like to thank you, the parents, for your continued support and wish that you and your families all remain safe at this time.

Kind regards

Mrs G Harrison
Principal

Appendix I – Key Workers list

- 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.)
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.