



St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

34 – 36 Nutfield Road, Derryree, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. BT92 0LA

21 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers

You are aware that schools are closed currently but will re-open (with a skeletal staff), to support identified Key Workers.

As a community, we will seek to support the front-line service workers; doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, etc to enable them to support the most vulnerable people.

The earliest we can put provision in place which we consider to be adequate and most importantly safe, is from Wednesday 25th March at 9:15am.

As indicated by the Minister on Friday, **schools will be open to those key workers where they cannot find an alternative.**

We will endeavour to offer limited day-care provision for **ONLY** those children whose parents are **Key Workers (list attached)** and have exhausted **ALL** other options for their child's care.

Our school service **MUST** be a **LAST RESORT** in order to protect your children, our staff and the wider community and to ensure that the maximum number of Key Workers can get to work to provide the essential front-line services that we need.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

PLEASE NOTE: Only children with an official confirmation of a place can attend school. No child will be admitted to the school without the prior consent of the Principal.

As there is a limit to the number of places that we can provide under current regulations, it is vital that we know how many children require this service.

Provision of any level of service will be dependent on staff availability and the school may have to be closed if this becomes a problem.

Please email the school by 12noon on Monday 23rd March, info@stronans.lisnaskea.ni.sch.uk with the following details:

- Your name and job (both occupations where two parents are key workers)
- Your children's names and classes
- Which days (this week Wed 25th – Fri 27th) you will need provision.

We will then reply via email to indicate if your children have been given a place and to outline the next steps.

Parents are asked to note that we will only be able to operate our normal 9.15am – 3.00pm school day and we will only be able to operate if enough staff are able to attend work.

Please ensure that under no circumstances should children with a new and continuous cough/or high temperature attend school. There will be no medical support available in school unless a named First Aider is on duty that day.

Under no circumstances should any pupil who has not been allocated a place in writing, arrive at the school. This is to ensure safe social distancing measures are manageable.

We are working as quickly as we can to set up these arrangements and I would ask that only those in most need of childcare and who are Key Workers, contact the school through email at this time.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Regards,

Brian McGrath

Principal

Key Workers

The following (Dept of Education list) outlines the broad categories of what would be defined as a key worker:

- 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 pre-school 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.