

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



20th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Peter Weir has asked schools to assist key workers who are maintaining essential public services and who have exhausted all other options of childcare. Therefore, St. Mary's will open for any vulnerable children and will accommodate children of key workers who meet the criteria set by DE.

In order to stop the spread of COVID-19 through our school community we want to limit the attendance of staff and pupils at school and reduce the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. The safest course of action for everyone is to keep your child at home and to try and contain the spread of the virus through our community.

If you are a Key Worker and meet the criteria or have a vulnerable child and have exhausted all other alternatives for child care provision, the school will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for your children. (8.45 am – 1.30 pm for Foundation Stage children and 8.45 am – 2.45pm for Key Stage 1 and 2 children.) If you would like to apply for a place for your child, I would be grateful if you could complete the survey on the following link (<https://forms.gle/hM7tAMqumoDHmLgg7>) and **submit before 5pm on Thursday 21st January 2021.**

This will help us to plan for the provision of supervised learning for Vulnerable children and children of Key Workers. Following receipt of any requests, I will contact parents to make further arrangements.

There will be no school based face to face teaching for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who attend school. The focus will be on supervised learning in school rather than teaching. All vulnerable children and children of key workers attending school will need to bring a healthy snack, a packed lunch, their home learning pack, their pencil case and a warm coat.

There will be no school meals available during this period of closure.

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Please see below for Government definitions

- Appendix A for definitions of Key workers.
- Appendix B for definitions of Vulnerable Children

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn

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Appendix A

Definition of key workers:

- **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, banking and waste disposal;
- **Financial Services** - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- **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.);
- **Retail.** This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- **Other workers essential to delivering key public services** such as the National Crime Agency; and
- **Key national and local government** including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

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Appendix B

Definition of Vulnerable Children:

- A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
- A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
- A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
- A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
- A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
- A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
- A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
- A child who has been placed for adoption.
- Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.