



*Lámh Dé san obair*  
*The Hand of God at Work*

# Our Lady and St Patrick Primary School

## Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig

Telephone: 028 44613045  
Email: [spreanter625@c2kni.net](mailto:spreanter625@c2kni.net)

Edward Street  
Downpatrick  
County Down  
BT30 6JD

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Ref: Supporting Vulnerable Children and the children of Key Workers**

As Principal I am acutely aware of the current crisis that we again find ourselves in and will endeavour to do all in my power to help ensure the health and safety of the pupils, families and staff in our school and wider communities. Our school is open at present to vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers and will remain open until the full re-opening of schools in late February following the mid-term break, unless instructed otherwise by the Department of Education.

To support us and help us inevitably to support those most in need and yet still safeguard appropriately, we would ask that, if you request this provision, you contact the school with the information required in the form below. Before doing so, please consider the current guidance. Please be aware, guidance may change as the current situation evolves and if we receive more specific updates from the Education Minister.

Before contacting us, **please pay particular attention to the following points.** We will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. **There will be no face to face teaching however, there will be supervised learning.** Pupils will complete, in school, the paper pack or online work which has been provided for home learning.

#### **Points to consider**

- A list of key workers, issued by the Department of Education is listed overleaf. Only children with parents working as key workers should consider requesting care. In single parent families, the individual parent **MUST** be a keyworker.
- Children attending will be required to wear their uniform. They should not bring bags or books as this creates potential for cross contamination. Please be advised that we will be performing childcare duties, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must also be available to prepare online / remote learning.

These are challenging times and we greatly value the work that everyone is doing to limit the long term impact of this devastating virus. This situation is continually developing and we will endeavor to keep you informed of any future changes as promptly as possible.

We keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Prenter

## **Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- 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.

## **Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)**

(Please note that if one parent meets this definition then the child can attend school)

- 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.

## APPLICATION FOR CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

Please email your response to [cfitzpatrick364@c2kni.net](mailto:cfitzpatrick364@c2kni.net) by 11:00 am Friday 8th January, with the following information included:

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### KEY WORKER ROLES

Parent One – Name and Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Two – Name and Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternatively, please confirm your key worker role as a single parent – Name and Role:

\_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please note any particular considerations the school should be aware of if we are in a position where we need to manage who can access this offer of childcare support.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**We STRONGLY underline the fact that, given the timeframe if you do not contact the school to book a place before the closure time of 11.00am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, we cannot guarantee your child a place for the following week.** Please provide us with up-to-date contact details, particularly if grandparents can no longer be listed as one of the priority contacts during this period.

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_