20th March 2020

Dear parents
**Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers**

Yesterday evening, the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, made a statement outlining that over the coming days and weeks the impact of the spread of the Coronavirus will be extremely significant for everyone in our community.

The overriding priority is to reduce the spread of the virus using social distancing and effective hygiene as the best ways to do this. That’s why churches, schools, community and sporting organisations are closed. You too can play your part; limit contact with people outside your immediate family; limit unnecessary journeys; avoid crowded spaces; practice good hand washing hygiene; spend precious time with your children and keep in contact with your child’s teacher as they endeavour to support you through home packs and online packages.

At this time, we are mindful of the additional pressures and expectations on the medical and caring professions. 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.

To that end, the parish schools and out of school providers are working together and will be open on Monday 23rd March for as long as is necessary to support identified Key Workers.

We will observe the advice regarding social distancing by keeping the number of children and staff very low and limiting contact between them as much as possible. We will not be able to operate anything like a ‘normal’ school day. We already have a significant reduction in staffing and this will probably continue to reduce over time. This, coupled with other potential unforeseen circumstances, might result in our inability to implement this provision. **This is an ever evolving situation, which we are seeking guidance on, and circumstances could change rapidly.** We will continue to communicate with all parents and I will be in touch with further information as soon as I receive it.

It is important; therefore, that we are aware of how many children of key workers will be attending school on Monday morning. With this in mind, please complete the attached form and return to school by email to pmartin505@c2kni.net by 5.00pm today if possible, to confirm how you would like us to support you, as many key workers work shifts so will have different requirements. **I would also advise that sending children to school could potentially facilitate the transfer of the virus so only use the service if you would otherwise be depending on grandparents or vulnerable adults to look after your children.**

In the interim, keep safe and thank you for your continued support in these most challenging times. May God bless you and everyone in your families.

Yours sincerely

Páraic Martin

**Principa**

Reply slip

**Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers**

Name of Key worker:

Occupation:

Work place:

Work telephone No:

Time when you require the service from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Days when you require the service: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of child/children

Classes:

Additional information:

Signed

* LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19TH MARCH 2020
* Please work with us to ensure that schools operate with a limited number of children and staff.
* 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.