

Holy Rosary Primary School

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ONLINE LEARNING AND KEY WORKER UPDATE

21st March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We closed this week to protect the Health and Welfare of our pupils and staff (employees) and to allow us to prepare for online learning.

Yesterday most passwords were collected to allow for online communication from Monday morning. Online tasks should be received by the pupils by Monday lunchtime. We can't guarantee first thing on Monday as there may be technical hitches and glitches.

On Thursday evening the Minister gave direction that schools should organise care of the children of Key Workers from Monday.

Because of the crisis that will unfold over the coming weeks, that could push the NHS to breaking point and beyond, the Holy Rosary school community will do its bit for the greater good of society by supporting our families who are Key Workers.

We thank Key Workers for everything they do and will be doing for us over the coming period. Holy Rosary will therefore be open on Monday to accept the children of Key Workers, who have no alternative childcare support available, from 9am-3pm initially.

We have asked our staff to volunteer to look after the children of the key workers who have no alternative childcare. We need to recognize that due to the essential work that key workers carry out, that many are on the front line and exposed to danger. By default, so are their families and their children. Our staff who volunteer are also vulnerable, especially as no protective clothing etc. has been provided by the Dept of Education. That is why it was important that we asked our staff to volunteer for this role and I would like to personally thank them for stepping forward.

It is also with the understanding that because of the virus, we cannot guarantee the Health & Safety (particularly the health) of any site users, children or adults, after Monday.

The double mobile at the back of the school will be used initially. The children of Key Workers should arrive in their school uniform, with a healthy break and packed lunch but no school bag. They will be looked after by a teacher who has volunteered while four other of our teachers, who have also volunteered, work out a plan about how the children will spend the day on the school site.

Attached to this is a proforma for emergency contacts including emergency contacts for your place of work. Also attached is the current list of Key Workers.

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If you are going to need Holy Rosary to provide Child Care for your child who is registered as a pupil in our school please email us at info@holyrosary.belfast.ni.sch.uk before 5pm Sunday. We will endeavor to acknowledge your email.

This letter is the best considered position that we can take in the current circumstances. I have no doubt this position will change, possibly even on daily basis.

Best wishes & keep safe,

Paddy Mc Allister

Principal

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Quote from Minister of Education

“I would ask you all to consider only sending your child to school if there are no other viable arrangements; schools should be open to vulnerable children or those who have a parent/carer who is a key worker in relation to dealing with the Covid-19 response. To be clear, both parents/carers do not have to be key workers.”

This key worker list is not prescriptive.

However, to give some guidance the following 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 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)
- 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

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Emergency Contacts

Name of Pupil:	Year Group
Parent 1:	Emergency Number
Occupation:	Address and Phone Number of place of work
Parent 2:	Emergency Number
Occupation	Address and Phone number of place of work

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