

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee



21st March, 2020

Reference: Coronavirus – Key Workers

Dear Parent/Guardian

I write to you regarding the ongoing confusion and developments in relation to the Coronavirus and the provision for 'Key Workers'.

All schools are now closed as we know them but the Department of Education has instructed that schools reopen to facilitate 'Supervised Learning' for the children of 'Key Workers'.

As a school we are keen to show our unreserved support for the ongoing challenge our healthcare services are currently facing. We realise we have a vital role to play in providing support for our community.

However, with the lack of clarity; without a detailed operational plan until Friday evening and appropriate protective measures in place we feel we cannot safely provide 'Supervised Learning' for the children of 'Key Workers' on Monday 23rd March.

We need adequate time to undertake a risk assessment in our school to ensure we are complying with the Public Health Authority guidance relating to Personal Protective Equipment and Social Distancing. We will also need to contact parents/guardians to find out who is a 'Key Worker' and has no other childcare options.

On Monday 23rd March we will take time to follow DE/CCMS/EA guidance and initiate a plan, which could involve working with other local schools, to facilitate a very limited number of places which will be guided by the number of staff available. Such places will be strictly for the children of 'Key Workers' who have no other childcare options. The guidance released to schools on Friday evening states, *'the Executive has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.'*

We will keep you fully informed of developments on Monday 23rd March when we will meet and agree plans. We hope to have arrangements put in place by Wednesday 25th March at the earliest.

If you have any queries, suggestions or concerns please contact me at the school on Monday 23rd March.

Take care and all the best,

Tomás Mc Kee

Tomás Mc Kee
Principal