



## ASHGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents & Carers

I write to you again to provide clarification with the provision for KEY WORKERS & vulnerable children. I received additional information yesterday evening from the Department of Education.

On many occasions in the past couple of weeks I have asked for and appreciated the support from our parents in Ashgrove as we act to respond quickly to shifting demands placed on us from the Department of Education. I have no doubt that changing messages cause you frustration and for that I apologise. We are required to act within a legal framework and follow these directives.

### GENERAL ADVICE

IT MUST STRESSED FIRST AND FOREMOST THAT FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL – CHILDREN, PARENTS AND STAFF THE AIM IS TO KEEP THE NUMBER OF PUPILS COMING INTO SCHOOL TO A MINIMUM.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

### POINTS OF GUIDANCE

- A list of key workers, issued by the Department of Education is overleaf, **children who do not fall into these groups must remain at home** and will not be allowed admission to the premises.
- If you are a key worker and have an adult at home who is able to look after your child you must use this option first.
- Only children of key workers who have NO symptoms of covid-19 should attend school.
- If anyone in your household has symptoms i.e persistent cough or temperature your household must follow PHA guidance and self isolate for two weeks.
- Childcare in Ashgrove Primary will be normal school hours i.e. 8.50am - 2.50pm.
- A breaktime snack and packed lunch will be required.
- Pupils should wear clean clothes (non uniform) from home and this should be changed each day.

## CHECKLIST

- Do you have a KEY WORKER role?
- Have you confirmed with your employer that your specific role is necessary?
- Is there an adult at home or available elsewhere who can already safely look after your child?
- Have you informed the school that you require a place for your child?
- Have you requested and completed the information slip and returned to school by email on [info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)

## KEY WORKERS ISSUED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

- **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.

Due to staffing restrictions there may be limited spaces available for Key Worker Childcare. If after reading all the above - General Information, Points of Guidance and Checklist you require childcare please contact school on [info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk) by 9.00pm today (Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020) we will send you an information slip to complete and return.

Upon completion and return of the information slip we will confirm your childcare place by 3.00pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, alternatively a pdf version the childcare reply slip is available to download from the homepage of our school's website.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Smith', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Robert Smith

Principal