



Cookstown High School

Combined Grammar & Secondary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Friday 20th March

Supporting Children (Years 8-10) of key workers in Cookstown High School

Following the announcement yesterday from the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir MLA that schools will close from today, details have been provided in relation to how schools will open on Monday 23rd March to support the children of key workers.

As outlined by the Minister, supervision in schools will only be available in Post Primary Schools for children of key workers in Years 8-10. Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home. It is vitally important that the school is aware of how many children of key workers will be attending on Monday morning in order to ensure that appropriate supervision can be arranged in advance. **With this in mind, if you are an identified key worker, please make contact with the school today via telephone or email.** Before contacting school, please pay particular attention to the following points. The school will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. We are already operating with a significant reduction in staffing and most likely staffing levels will reduce further over the coming weeks.

Points to consider:

- A list of key workers, outlined by the Department of Education is listed below. Only children with both parents working as key workers, and both parents out at work at the same time should consider attending school. In single parent families, the individual parent must be a key worker.
- If possible alternative childcare arrangements should be sought before deciding to send your child to school, for example with other family members, friends etc. Please try and use school as a last resort in order to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.
- The normal school opening and closing times will apply (9.25am – 3.55pm).
- Children attending will be required to wear their full school uniform. Please be aware that the school will be performing childcare/supervision duties only, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must be available to provide online/remote learning.

We ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your son/daughter to school. As advised in the Minister's letter the aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum. Likewise, we fully understand the need to support you in your vital role and if the only option is to send your child to school, we will continue to look after them.

Yours sincerely,


GJ Evans

The information provided from the Department defining key workers is detailed overleaf.

Key workers are those who are maintaining essential public services during the Covid-19 response. The definition of key worker will be flexible and dependant on the circumstance and requirements over the course of this critical period. There will be flexibility shown on the definition of key workers to ensure all those who need support receive it. The 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.