

153 Roemill Road  
Limavady  
Co L'Derry  
BT49 9EX

Tel: 028 777 68695

4 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and I trust you have had a peaceful Christmas time.

In response to an increase in coronavirus cases and levels of transmission the Education Minister announced **revised plans for schools reopening in January**. Full details of the new plans are available on the Department of Education website.

The new arrangements state that all primary school pupils will **learn remotely from the start of term until 8 January 2021**. As the Education Minister has recommended, the first day of term (Wednesday 6 January) will be a planning day and hence the **new term will commence with remote learning via Seesaw on Thursday 7 January 2021** (Date is the same as previous RVIPS calendar date plans).

Roe Valley IPS will be **open for keyworker and vulnerable pupils on Thursday 7 January and Friday 8 January 2021**. The Education Minister has made it clear that this service should be used as a last resort with pupils only attending on the days that you do not have any alternative childcare arrangement.

Children who qualify within these categories will be in school for 'supervised learning' (not face to face teaching). The children will cover the same activities as children who are at home.

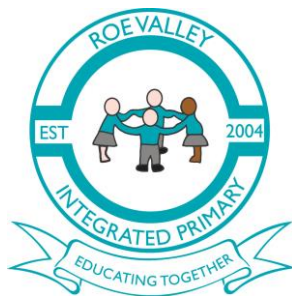
Please kindly review the **appendix section for the definition of a keyworker and vulnerable pupil**.

Parents/Guardians who are keyworkers and also parents/guardians of vulnerable children must kindly **complete the 'RVIPS Key Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Covid-19 Declaration Form' in the forms section of the app before 6pm on Tuesday 5 January 2021**. You will then be contacted on Wednesday 6 January to confirm your place.

Unless further changes are announced, we very much look forward to **welcoming everyone back to Roe Valley IPS for face to face learning and teaching on Monday 11 January 2021** (Previous staggered arrival and collection times continue to apply).

The school office will reopen at 9am on Wednesday 6 January 2021 and I remind you of the emergency telephone number issued prior to the Christmas break – 07591832299.





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**Thank you as always for your support during these ever-changing circumstances. Continue to stay safe and well, and together we will move forward.  
With best wishes for a peaceful, hopeful and happy New Year.**

**Julie McDonagh**  
Principal

## **Appendix**

### **Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-crossdepartmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
- A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
- A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
- A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
- A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
- A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
- A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.





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- A child who has been placed for adoption.
- Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

## Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)

(Please note that if one parent meets this definition then the child can attend school)

- 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 pre-school 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, banking and waste disposal;
- Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- 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.);
- Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.



# Shared Education – Shared Future



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