



171, Newtownsaville Road,
Eskra,
Omagh,
Co Tyrone.
BT78 2RJ

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk

www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk

Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Friday, 20th March, 2020.

Dear Parent,

Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers in Primary School

The Minister of Education's statement last evening on school closures included a requirement for schools to make provision for those children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and who would otherwise have no option but to stay at home to ensure safe supervision of their children. We aim to commence this provision on **Tuesday, 24th March, 2020.**

In order to respond effectively, the school will need to know, in advance, the number of Key Workers' children who will be attending on Tuesday morning. Therefore, if you are an identified Key Worker we would ask you to complete the form that was sent to you by text today. If you are a Key Worker and you haven't received the text, please telephone the school on **Monday morning** between **9am** and **11am**. Once we have this information, we will contact you for further clarification.

As set out in the Minister of Education's statement, the aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum, so please pay particular attention to the points below.

Points To Consider

- A list of Key Workers issued 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 main carer **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 to use school as a last resort. This is to try to limit the number of children and staff together in a small space in line with recent social distancing

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

guidance. The health and welfare of pupils, staff and families continues to be of paramount importance.

- We will seek to continue this service for as long as we can but please be aware that, as with many other schools, we could be operating with significant reductions in staffing and this could worsen over time.
- Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform.
- School will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. Please be advised that our school will be performing childcare duties, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must also be available to provide online / remote learning. Therefore, this support will be on a **supervision basis only**.
- School's normal opening and closing time will apply. E.g. 9am – 2pm, 9am – 3pm.

We would ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your child to school. Obviously, it goes without saying, if your **only** option is to send your child to school, we will try our best to look after them in order to support you in your important role.

Please keep safe and God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)

LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19TH MARCH 2020

Please work with us to ensure that our school operates with a limited number of children and staff.

Health And Social Care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education And Childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the Covid-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key Public Services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local And National Government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms' length bodies.
Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public Safety And National Security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, Communication And 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), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

'Key workers' also include those whose work is 'critical' to the Covid-19 response.