Dear Parent / Guardian

**Re: Supporting Children of Key Workers**

Further to a letter issued on Friday 20th March, the Department of Education has requested that schools be available for the provision of ‘supervised learning’ for children of key workers, in order to ensure that vital services are maintained across Northern Ireland in order to keep our society functioning during this very critical time. The Minister of Education has advised that such a service will apply to pupils in Years 8 – 10 and not beyond.

At the same time and in order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the most recent scientific advice indicates that **if pupils can stay safely at home, they should do so, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

The following key principles are significant to limiting the spread of COVID-19:

* If it is at all possible for pupils to be at home, then they should be
* If a pupil has a parent/guardian who is a key worker, then educational provision will be available for them
* Parents/Guardians should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
* Parents/Guardians should also do everything they can to ensure their children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

**Points to Consider:**

* A list of key workers as per Department of Education guidelines, is provided overleaf. Only children with **BOTH** parents/guardians working as key workers, and **both parents/guardians out working at the same time,** should consider attending school.
* In single parent families, the individual parent **MUST** be a key worker
* School will operate from 8.45am – 3.10pm only
* Pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform
* School buses will not be in operation
* Pupils should bring a snack for break and a healthy lunch – there are no canteen facilities at present.
* Pupils should bring their subject packs or personal laptop devices to work from. No school equipment will be provided to pupils.
* No teaching will occur whilst pupils are present as the purpose is to supervise pupils only.
* All pupils present will be seated in the Assembly Hall sitting 2 metres apart.
* There will be no opportunities for an unstructured break or lunchtime.

The Minister for Education has identified the following categories of key workers:

* Health and Social Care
* Education
* Public safety and national security
* Transport
* Utilities and Communication
* Food Provision
* Local and national government

Holy Trinity College is not in a position to provide ‘supervised learning’ for pupils outside of these groups. The health and safety of our staff is also a priority as are the number of staff available to accommodate parental requests. Public Health Agency guidelines will be followed at all times.

We will continue to update you as and when additional / new information is forwarded from the PHA or DENI, via the Parent App, School Comms and on the school website [www.holytrinitycollege.org](http://www.holytrinitycollege.org) .

If you wish to contact the College, please do so via the info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk

Please remember, the best place for your child at this point in time, is at home. Sending your child to school, should be regarded as **A LAST RESORT.**

In the meantime, please look after yourselves and especially the more vulnerable in our community. I hope everyone remains safe and well, and I thank you for your continued support and understanding at this very difficult time.

 Yours sincerely

 

I Russell (Mrs) Principal