



St Patrick's Primary School & Nursery  
Bunscoil Naomh Padraig  
Coilleach Eanach

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### **CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

Dear Parents/Guardians

In regards future school opening for the childcare of key workers and those pupils designated vulnerable children, I am now trying to collate if any pupils may require school based childcare.

Before a parent who is a key worker or a parent of a vulnerable child decides to avail of this service, please be aware of the following points.

- Parents should only avail of this service **if they have no other alternative**. The health and well-being of our staff and pupils is paramount in the current situation. The objective is to keep numbers of pupils and staff as low as possible so social distancing can be practiced.
- This applies for Nursery to P7 pupils who are designated as children of key workers or are designated vulnerable children.. The definition of each of these groups is below.
- Normal school hours will apply. i.e, 9.15AM - 3.15PM
- There will be no transport, no breakfast club, and no dinners available. Pupils must bring a packed lunch.
- This will not be normal school so pupils will not need a uniform.

I would ask any parents who intend to send their children for future possible school opening to email me with the following information before 10am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March so that I can make suitable arrangements if necessary. Please be advised that depending on numbers, childcare may be provided at another educational site.

Name of Key worker Parent/s-

Work place/Home telephone-

Days you will require service-

Names and classes of children -

Any additional info-

Please send email responses to [pquinn475@c2kni.net](mailto:pquinn475@c2kni.net) .I will be in contact with parents who reply. Please wait for confirmation of arrangements and do not send children to school until you receive further correspondence.

The list of key workers and the definition of vulnerable children issued by the Minister is below.

*P. Quinn*

### **KEY WORKERS**

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, 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.

**Vulnerable children** encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Children and young people in need may include those:

- Receiving support from Health & Social Services including family support, child protection and looked after children services
- On the Child Protection Register
- With statements of special educational needs
- Accessing EOTAS
- Accessing Education Nurture Units
- With emerging and diagnosed mental health needs
- Who are homeless
- Who are young carers
- Subject to paramilitary threat
- Whose parents have mental health problems
- Whose parents have alcohol and drug addictions
- Affected by domestic violence