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CARR’S GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



RE: SUPPORTING CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2020**

Dear Parents / Carers

At approximately 5.00 p.m. on Thursday evening, the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, made a statement outlining how schools will close from the end of the school day today, Friday 20th March, but will continue to be used to support key workers.

Staff will be using Monday 23rd to plan and risk assess in preparation for using the school for pupils of key workers. It is vitally important that schools are aware of how many children of key workers will be attending school on **Tuesday** morning. This will allow time to ensure we are organised and have properly resourced arrangements in place that comply with the Public Health Agency’s current guidance.

If you believe you fall into the category of parents who meet this criteria, please print and complete the application form on the school website. This form should be returned to the school office no later than Monday, 23 March at 1.00 p.m. The criteria set by the Department of Education can be found on this link:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/letter-minister-education-education-sector>:

* 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

**SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL CHILDREN ON MONDAY, 23 MARCH TO ALLOW FOR ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS TO BE PUT IN PLACE AND PREPARE FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS.**

Before applying for a place please pay particular attention to the following points. Schools will not be able to operate a ‘normal’ school day. Many of our schools are already operating with a significant reduction in staffing and this will probably continue to diminish over time. Children will be safer at home due to having less interaction with others.

• School will operate from 9.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.; parents may collect children before that if they wish

• Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform.

• Please be advised that schools may 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 for pupils not in attendance.

**Both parents should be identified key workers. If only one parent is a key worker the other parent would be expected to look after the child so as to reduce the number of pupils 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 to use schools as a last resort**. This is to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.

**Thank you to everyone working in front line services to provide care, treatment and protection for the community.  We appreciate everything that you are doing.**

Regards,

Mr J Todd

Principal