



LEADHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Casaeldona Park
Belfast
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Friday 20 March 2020

Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers in Primary School

Dear Parents / Carers,

The Minister for Education, Mr Peter Weir MLA, has made a statement outlining how all schools will close from the end of school today.

However, schools will reopen on Monday 23 March to support the children of identified Key Workers.

You are receiving this letter as the agreed position of the Castlereagh Area Principals' Association.

Our Principals' association has agreed to adopt a consistent approach across our schools in how we support the children of key workers. The level and form of support will depend upon the number of staff available for work in our schools.

The information provided is accurate as of today but may change in the days ahead.

To help us plan ahead we need to know how many children of key workers will be attending our school.

Consequently, if you are an identified key worker and would be requesting that your child comes to school on Monday, we will need to know this by 5pm today. It would also be helpful to receive an email from anyone who feels that they will be in need of the service beyond Monday.

This request should be sent by email to amillis370@c2kni.net or phoned through to the school office on 90401101. Information needed will include how many children will be needing to avail of the service and details about the key worker status of both parents. Mrs Millis will then contact you with further information about availability.

POINTS FOR KEY WORKERS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL:

- The main reason for school closure is to achieve social separation, to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and to keep our children and staff safe.
- The Department of Health advise is clear; social separation is essential in this fight against Coronavirus. The more children there are in school, the less social separation and consequently the more transmission will occur.
- Before sending children to school key workers should make every effort to make their own childcare arrangements, for example, with other family members, friends etc,

- Key workers should only use schools as a last resort.
- Only children with **BOTH** parents working as key workers, and both parents **out at work at the same time**, should be sent to school.
- Where one parent is a key worker, it is expected, **indeed it is your responsibility** that the other parent should provide childcare at home.
- In single parent families, if the parent is a key worker and can make no alternative arrangements, the children may be sent to school.
- Vulnerable children, with medical, behavioural, emotional, physical should not be in school. They should be cared for and protected at home.

A list of key workers issued by the Department of Education is as follows:

- Health & Social Care
- Education
- Public Safety & National Security
- Transport
- Utilities and Communication
- Food Provision
- Local and National Government

School will not have wraparound services available.

Normal opening and closing times will apply:	Yrs 1 – 3	9.00am –2.00pm
	Yrs 4 – 7	9.00am –3.00pm.

Children will be required to wear their school uniform.

Please be advised schools will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. Many of our schools are already operating with a significant reduction in staffing.

Teaching opportunities will be taken where possible; however, schools will primarily be providing childcare facilities as we may not have a full teaching complement and teachers are required to provide remote learning opportunities at the same time. Children will not necessarily be with their class teachers and provision will be dependent on staff availability. If staff availability becomes a problem, then the school will be closed.

There is currently no advice as to school meals provision, so all children should bring a packed lunch.

Where both parents are key workers and your only childcare option is to send your child to school, we will look after your child in order to support you in your important role; we thank you for your service to our community.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Millis
Principal