

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Vulnerable Children/Children of Key Workers:

Further to my letter yesterday, we have now heard from the Government regarding what constitutes a 'key worker'. As stated nationally, vulnerable children and the children of key workers will continue to have access to provision in schools, **wherever possible**. This provision will be to care for and supervise young people, not necessarily to provide normal, national curriculum education.

The Government have also stated that **"if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be."**

If your employment falls into one of the categories detailed on the attached list, and you or another member of your household **cannot care for your child/children at home due to the demands of your work**, please inform school (if you have not already done so) that your child will require a place from Monday 23 March. Schools will then confirm provision is available.

With regard to meal arrangements, all children attending school during this period will be provided with a free school lunch (which may be hot or cold). Should you wish you can, of course, send your child with a packed lunch from home. For those entitled to free school meals and who are not included in the key groups attending school, you will receive further information from me as soon as is feasible.

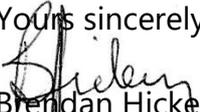
In the eventuality of staff shortages, we may need to further reduce the number of children in school. Priority categories for continued provision would be in the following order:

1. Vulnerable children with a linked social worker or EHCP
2. Families with **both** parents/carers as key workers (as per list attached)
3. Other vulnerable children (as notified by school)
4. Families with **one** key worker parent/carer

Please be aware that the health and safety of all children and staff in our schools is paramount. If school is closed, then please contact your Local Authority, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area at which your child could be offered a place.

Take care and God bless you and your families.

Yours sincerely


Brendan Hickey

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy



Sean McClafferty

Chief Executive Officer

St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust

