



STRAID PRIMARY SCHOOL



Principal: D Boyd

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Straid

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22nd March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with deep regret that we are informing you of the decision from myself and members of Board of Governors in consultation with EA to **close the school to children including children of key workers or vulnerable children from Monday 23rd March until further notice.**

The decision to close the school was not easily reached by either EA, myself or members of the Board of Governors and is due to the **current status of insufficient staffing levels which significantly impacts on the ability of the school to safely operate during school opening hours.** As a staff we feel it is important that we play our part in efforts to fight COVID-19 and so we have offered our services to the EA whilst working from home with any area that they deem could be helpful.

Any parent who falls in the key worker category or has a child(ren) who fall into the vulnerable child category (named below) should contact me at the following email address: dboyd220@c2kni.net so that arrangements can be made for your child(ren) to be cared for in another school.

As with all correspondence recently sent to parents, this is an ever-evolving situation which has potential to change. You will be kept informed of any changes to the status of the school regarding key workers'/vulnerable children as soon as these occur through our usual channels of communication-

- 1) Website home page/parent note page,
- 2) Text message,
- 3) Email,
- 4) Phone call.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and co-operation. It is greatly appreciated. May I on behalf of staff and the Board of Governors wish you and your families continued good health.

Kind Regards,
Mrs. Boyd

**LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO
SCHOOLS ON 19TH MARCH 2020**

**Please work with us to ensure that schools operate with a limited number of
children and staff.**

- 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)
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

**Definition of Vulnerable children as defined by correspondence from
Derek Baker (Permanent Secretary) Office**

Vulnerable children are 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