

"We are God's family; the Light of the World. We work, We play, We pray together."

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

A National Support School

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Critical Worker Update

As you are aware, school is currently only open for vulnerable children or for children of critical workers. The decision to limit on-site provision is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households.

We have had a big demand for critical worker provision in school this week with more enquiries being made about places. I am concerned that this will become unworkable based on our risk assessment. In school, we are facing daily challenges such as isolations etc. and this has to be carefully managed so that the bubbles we have are sustainable and can keep running. We are balancing our work to ensure that the children on site are receiving an education which is as normal as it possibly can be, whilst providing a high quality learning experience and support network for those at home.

We know you are doing your absolute best in very challenging circumstances, to manage this situation as best you can and we are very grateful. We know that many of you are accessing the childcare bubble arrangements set out by the government, whereby you are allowed to form a childcare bubble with one other household for informal childcare.

However, we are now at the point where we need to explain to you that we can only look at each request on case by case basis, and offer places to those based on a prioritisation hierarchy:

- 1. Vulnerable children: Child is open to Social Care.
 - 2. Vulnerable children: Child has an EHCP.
 - 3. Vulnerable children: Those children identified by the school as vulnerable.
 - 4. Children of parents whose work is directly life-saving or critical to health care (NHS frontline, care homes and domiciliary care)
 - 5. Children where both parents are critical workers and have presented a current letter from their employer or confirmed directly with the school by a line manager.
 - 6. Children where one parent is a critical worker and has presented a current letter from their employer or confirmed directly with the school by a line manager.
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We hope that you understand that we need to put these measures in place to ensure that the on-site provision is operationally a safe environment for all children and staff, where the risk of transmission is substantially reduced.

Yours sincerely,

Gayle Wilkinson *Michelle Rooney*

Headteacher Chair of Governors

