

Glenlola Collegiate School

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Headmaster: W E Thompson BSc MSc MEd PGCE PQH(NI)



Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Supporting children (Years 8-10) of key workers in Glenlola Collegiate School

Yesterday evening Minister of Education in Northern Ireland, Mr Peter Weir MLA, published a letter outlining how schools will close from the end of school today. However, details have been provided in relation to how schools will open with staff **from Monday 23 March** to support the children of key workers. This will achieve 2 aims:

- It will minimise the numbers of children congregating in school settings
- Enable parents who are identified as key staff to continue to carry out their work

As outlined by the Minister, **supervision in schools will only be available in Post-Primary Schools for Children of key workers in Years 8-10.**

We are however aware that some pupils in Year 11 and above will find it difficult to adapt to studying at home during these uncertain times. In exceptional circumstances, if your child requires pastoral support you should contact the School by email via the info@glenlola.collegiate.bangor.ni.sch.uk and mark your email 'For the Attention of the Pastoral Care Team' and we will endeavour to respond to you.

Other children should remain at home.

It is vitally important that we know how many children of key workers will be attending School on Monday morning, so that we can put appropriate supervision in place.

With this in mind, if you are an identified key worker with no possible childcare options, please send your daughter to School on Monday **with a letter from you stating:**

- Your daughter's name and form class
- Your name and occupation
- Your place of occupation

Please be assured your details will be kept confidential.

Procedure on Monday 23rd March for children in School.

Children should come into School via the Valentine Road and enter the building through the **main School entrance at Reception** where their letter will be collected by one of the Vice Principals. They should then go directly to the Assembly Hall.

Please note that they should maintain a safe distance from others at all times and continue to follow good handwashing and hygiene practices while they are in School.

School will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. Many of our schools are already operating with a significant reduction in staffing and most likely staffing levels will reduce over the coming weeks.

Points to consider:

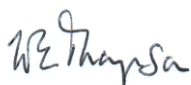
- A list of key workers, outlined by the Department of Education is listed below. Only children with both parents working as key workers, and both parents out at work at the same time should consider attending school. In single parent families, the individual parent must be a key worker.
- If possible, 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 School as a last resort. This will allow us to limit the number of children and adults congregating in line with recent social distancing guidance.
- School's normal opening and closing time will apply e.g. 8.50am - 3.30pm.
- Children attending School will be **required to wear their full school uniform**. Please be advised that normal lessons will not take place.
- Teachers will be available to provide online/remote learning.
- Pupils in School will have access to computers so that they can engage in the same learning as pupils who are at home via Google Classroom.

In a radio interview this morning the Education Minister stated that children of teachers and other key school workers can either attend their own school or that in which their parent is employed. They should only do so if it is not possible for them to remain at home.

We ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your daughter to school. As advised in the Minister's letter the aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum. Likewise, we fully understand the need to support you in your vital role and if the only option is to send your child to school, we will continue to look after them.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge publicly the leadership of our Education and Health Ministers and the work that they and their teams have carried out in the past few weeks to support and advise schools and parents during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely



WE Thompson
Headmaster

Key workers: are those who are maintaining essential public services during the Covid-19 response. The definition of key worker will be flexible and dependant on the circumstance and requirements over the course of this critical period. However, to give some guidance the following outlines the broad categories of what would be defined as a key worker;

•**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

Telephone Support Lines for Young People:

Who can Help?	What Do They Do?	What Topics Can They Help With?	How Can They be Contacted?
INSPIRE Students	INSPIRE provides advice on how to help and support pupils/ students.	Mental Health Alcohol and Drugs Money Exams Relationships Identity	02890328474
Lifeline	Crisis response line for people in distress or despair	Depression Mental health Suicidal thoughts Textphone users (for deaf and hard of hearing):	08088008000 18001 0808808800
Childline	Childline provides support and guidance on multiple topics including:	Bullying You and your body Home and Family Relationships Sex School	0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk 1-2-1 counsellor chat
The MIX	Crisis messenger text service	Alcohol Homelessness Suicidal thoughts General advice Mental health	08088084994

		Sex/ relationships	
NSPCC	Advice on safeguarding and child protection issues and somewhere to report concerns Web support for teenagers	Safeguarding Child abuse Child protection	08088005000 www.there4me.com
Aware	Aware is a mental health charity working exclusively for those with depression and mental health concerns	Depression Bipolar disorder	08451202961
Frank	Confidential advice on drugs	Alcohol Drugs	03001236600
SIMON Community	Support for individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless	Homelessness Housing	08001712222
Family Planning Association	Advice on sexual health	Sexual health Pregnancy Contraception STDs	03451228687
Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline	Advice for anyone affected by domestic and sexual violence	Domestic violence Sexual violence	0808021414
The Migrant Centre NI	Financial Health and Well being		07769903471
Cara-Friend/ LGBT Switchboard NI	Support and counselling for the Gay, Lesbian and Transgender communities	LGBTQ+ advice Sex and relationship advice	08088000390
Women's Aid	Specialist services for women, children and young people who have experienced domestic and sexual violence.	Domestic Violence Sexual violence Relationships	08088021414
Family Support NI	Website to access support in your area – for a wide range of issues – giving local contact details		www.familysupportni.gov.uk