

# Millquarter Primary School



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21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020

## **EMERGENCY PROVISION OF LAST RESORT LIMITED CHILDCARE FOR ESSENTIAL KEY WORKER PERSONNEL ONLY** (This provision will **NOT** begin on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You will be aware of the Minister's updated letter which we received after 7pm last night regarding 'skeleton schools' opening next week for the children of key workers.

We will endeavour to offer limited DAYCARE PROVISION from 9am-3pm for **ONLY** those children who have a parent as a **keyworker**/ vulnerable children as defined by the Department. The term vulnerable encompasses 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:

- With statements of special educational needs.

We strongly recommend that alternative childcare arrangements should be sought if at all possible and that such a service should only be used as a last resort.

**We must stress that the best way to keep everyone safe (children, staff and the wider community) is to KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME.**

We do understand there will be a small number of you who do identify as those key workers who have no alternative options left for child-care. So, once we have carried out a school risk assessment and have acquired the necessary hygiene products we hope to offer a limited number of spaces available for such child-care, based on very limited human resources available.

We are assessing the numbers meeting the government criteria alongside our capacity to deliver the service. We will prioritise those numbers we can safely support and we will then offer you a place to accept under our terms and conditions led by our constraints to ensure your child's needs are fully met in a safe and welcoming environment.

We are most grateful to those keyworkers on the front line who are helping to fight this global pandemic. These are unprecedented times and we know everyone is digging deep to help support the national effort.

As we are awaiting further information we will not be in a position to open on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We will let you know when day-care provision will commence and who will be accommodated.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Storey