



153 Roemill Road
Limavady
Co L'Derry
BT49 9EX

Tel: 028 777 68695

23rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have received updated guidance from Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education with relation to providing support for **vulnerable children** in our school community. We will therefore be updating our criteria to include this group in our current provision. We will also be changing our Key worker criteria to only require **one parent** to qualify as a key worker. We hope to be in a position to provide support for some of these children, having already identified the expected need within our initial priority group.

A reminder that the government has urged parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open **only** for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Children must be looked after at home where this is at all possible. Our school facility is a service of last resort. This is to protect our children and to ensure that the maximum possible number of key workers are able to go to work to provide us all with the essential services that we need.

The expectations placed on schools are everchanging therefore we would ask that you bear with us as we ascertain need, prioritise appropriately and manage risk to support the school community and provide a safe environment for pupils and staff in this situation.

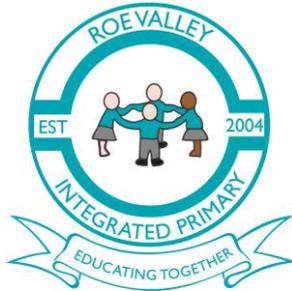
If you fall into one of the categories listed below and require a place please contact the school by email to info@roevalleyips.limavady.ni.sch.uk or by telephone on 02877768695 by 2pm this afternoon 23rd March 2020. If emailing, this correspondence should contain information that is relevant to the request including name of pupil/s, parent/guardian name, contact telephone number and information on how you meet the criteria. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and only accessed by me as Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding. We will then assess our capacity to deliver this service and safely care for your child. We will contact you on the number provided this afternoon to confirm places.

Vulnerable groups

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:





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- 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 education needs
- With emerging and diagnosed mental health needs
- Whose parents have mental health problems
- Whose parents have alcohol and drug addictions
- Affected by domestic violence

Key workers

Refer to the attached list of specific job titles within each sector to check if you are currently:

- A single parent identified as a key worker
- One or both parents are identified as key workers

A List of key workers, issued by the Department of Education includes:

- **Health and social care** - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, and home carers.
- **Education and child care** - nursery and teaching staff and specialist education professionals.
- **Public safety and national security** – civilians and officers in the police, fire and rescue service, prison service and other national security roles.
- **Transport** – air, water, road and rail transport.
- **Utilities and communication** – oil, gas, electricity, water and primary industry supplies as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal.
- **Food and other necessary goods** – food production, processing, distribution and sale as well as hygiene and medical etc.
- **Other workers essential to delivering key public services**
- **Key national and local government**

Before contacting the school please pay particular attention to the following points:

- Schools will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. There will be a significant reduction in staffing and this will probably diminish over time.
- If your child has an underlying health condition and is within a vulnerable group, please exercise your own discretion with regard to sending your child to school and follow the relevant guidance.





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- Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform.
- Normal opening and closing times will apply: 9am to 2pm/3pm.
- Schools will be providing 'supervised learning', as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must also be available to provide online/remote learning.
- If your child has a statement of special educational needs please be aware that they will not be supported to the full extent of their statement of need due to the current circumstances.

Only families with a confirmed offer of a place should attend school and they should only do this when directed by the school.

Yours sincerely

Joanne O'Donnell
Acting Principal

