

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Critical response measures

Last night the Government provided guidelines to schools making critical support provision to maintain national infrastructure during the Covid-19 situation. We are called upon to take extraordinary measures at an extraordinary time.

The guiding principle of the guidance is that **if children can stay safely at home they should do so**, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The fewer students making the journey to school, and the fewer students in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Parents must keep their children at home, wherever possible, so that we can make provision for those children who absolutely need to attend because their parents/carers are critical to maintaining the national infrastructure.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors and you cannot keep your child safe at home, then we will make education provision for your child. We recognise that many working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home must be.

The following principle will be applied

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be made subject to appropriate resources being available.
3. Parents must not rely on those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends or family members with underlying conditions to provide childcare.
4. Parents must do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If parents believe that they fall within the critical categories please complete this survey <https://tinyurl.com/stanneskeyworkers>

If you have a child considered to be vulnerable and/or is supported by social care, has safeguarding and welfare needs, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHC plans, our Achievement Leaders or Inclusion Manager should have and will continue to be in contact.

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Educational Provision

Children attending school will be following the same systems of work provided to children isolated at home. They will attend school during the hours of **10am to 1pm** and wear school uniform and normal behaviour standards will be maintained. Children will be provided with a safe environment and supported in their work; however I cannot undertake that every child will have the support of a Qualified Teacher at all times.

Parents will appreciate that our staff are also caring for families and I have a duty of care to ensure their health and wellbeing during these challenging times. None of us know how this situation will develop, however it is safe to assume that special conditions will be applied for an extended period. During that time circumstances will change, often rapidly and with short notice. I cannot guarantee consistency of resources available and I ask for your understanding at this difficult time, however, my commitment to you is that I will communicate with you regularly and that everyone at St Anne's will, as always, prioritise the best interests of our students.

We cannot do this without your support. I am going to have limited and likely reducing resources, therefore I repeat my opening comment; **if children can stay safely at home, they must, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

I am blessed to have an outstanding and committed community of colleagues who are making extraordinary efforts to continue support of our Learning Family whether isolated at home or being cared for within the school environment. I ask you to keep all of them in your prayers as you are in ours.

Yours faithfully



Mrs E Loveland
Headteacher