



1 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your family have had a safe and peaceful Christmas break.

Unfortunately, the public health situation has deteriorated once again and the ongoing disruption to our lives continues. I hope and pray that this will be the last time I will have to write a letter to you, regarding the negative impact of this pandemic.

The Education Minister's announcement, on 31 December 2020, to revise his plans for school re-opening is outlined below;

- school term begins on Wednesday 6 January (Tuesday 5 January has been allocated for school preparation);
- pupils in year 8 – 11 will be taught remotely until Friday 29 January;
- pupils in year 12 – 14 will be taught remotely from Wednesday 6 January until Friday 8 January. From Monday 11 January, pupils in year 12 – 14 will attend school for face-to-face teaching. They will follow their normal timetable;
- external examinations due to take place in January (week beginning 11 January), will be facilitated, compliant with public health guidance. Year 12 – 14 pupils should remain in school after any external examination until the end of the school day;
- if a year 11 pupil is attending an external examination (from Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January), they should come to school at 9.00am to enable them to go straight to the examination hall. They are to return home after their examination;
- from Wednesday 6 January supervised learning will be accommodated in school for vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers. Supervised learning will be provided from 8.40am to 3.20pm. Please note that this will not be face-to-face teaching. Pupils will be supervised to facilitate the completion of the online learning made available by their teachers on MS Teams. The definition of vulnerable children and a key worker is provided by the Department of Education and accompanies this letter. **Parents / carers of vulnerable children and key workers should contact the school reception on Monday 4 January to register their child for supervised learning.** This will enable school to ensure that adequate rooming and supervision staff are made available for each day. Pupils entitled to free school meals will receive a packed lunch from EA Catering. Pupils not entitled to free school meals



are required to bring a packed lunch from Wednesday 6 January to Friday 8 January. It is expected that hot food provision will resume from Monday 11 January.

The Minister's letter, dated 31 December, also states that "further improvements to school mitigations will be taken forward as indicated in the Minister's statement to the assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> December including; face coverings being required in all post-primary settings, including the classroom, improved signage and stronger public messaging. These will add to the already significant range of mitigations that have been put in place and operated by schools". The letter also states that "the Education Authority will issue further operational guidance and DE (Department of Education) will issue updated guidance (to schools) in January". It is anticipated that all staff and pupils in the school building from 4 January onwards, will be required to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms.

Our Online Learning Policy can be accessed on the school website. Below is a summary of Online Learning provision;

- pupils should follow their timetable each day;
- learning will be set for all classes **on the day** it is timetabled;
- for year 8 – 11 written feedback for assessed work will be given;
- where appropriate, learning will be accompanied by powerpoint explanations, loom presentations, short pre-recorded explanations of key concepts, recommended video clips, short research activities and interactive activities along with written tasks;
- in line with our communication policy, teaching staff should be able to respond within 24 hours to a query (within school hours)

As a school we are devastated that the deteriorating public health situation has once again negatively impacted our children. I hope that the current lockdown mitigations are effective and the roll out of the vaccine is swift. I also hope that this will be the last time that we have to implement our online learning policy.

If you have any queries regarding information in this letter please do not hesitate to contact me at [ghanvey783@c2kni.net](mailto:ghanvey783@c2kni.net)

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Hanvey  
Principal

