



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School  
*A Voluntary Academy*

Headteacher:  
Mrs L. M. Kelly, B.Ed.



7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Key Worker Provision**

I am writing to outline my concerns regarding the safety of the community of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School. You will know that everyone is at risk of catching Coronavirus and this risk has greatly increased with the emergence of a much more infectious strain of the virus.

The situation we find ourselves in is very serious. The NHS is in imminent danger of being overwhelmed. That is why the government has instructed everyone to **"Stay at Home"**. The intention behind the closure of schools to all pupils is to ensure as many people as possible can **"Stay at Home"** as this will give the best chance for the transmission rate of Covid-19 to be reduced. I am sure you will all agree that the reported figures over the last few evenings have been quite frightening in both the number of new infections and the number of reported deaths.

In March 2020, the transmission rate for the less contagious strain of Covid was successfully reduced. This was achieved through a lockdown in which people adhered to the **"Stay at Home"** message and this was reflected in a low number of pupils in our school- approximately 5%.

It follows that in order to achieve the goal of bringing the transmission rate of this more infectious strain of the virus under control, the number of pupils in school needs to be 10% or lower.

Since opening to key workers and vulnerable pupils on Wednesday we now have 30% of our school community. As you can imagine, at this time our staff too are very anxious about the risk to them and their families. We are awaiting guidance from the DFE and government with regards to what is believed to be a safe number of pupils in each bubble. Throughout the whole pandemic the amount of guidance that is issued to Headteachers has been overwhelming and with little time to digest and review plans. I am therefore alerting you to the fact that our current provision is subject to change.

We must reduce the school population as much as possible. We have seen the increased numbers of key worker children due to the extended list which the government has updated since March. However, the guidance is very clear, that if you are able to you should keep your child at home. I am now asking you to consider your school place and to only use it as a last resort. If you are working from home or have other child care arrangements then please keep your child at home.

I know that having your child at home with you, balancing working from home and trying to keep up with remote learning is hard, but this is not a valid reason to send them into school. If you are working from home, your child should be with you as this is the safest place for them.

You may think that your child will miss out if they are not in school, and in any other normal circumstance, this would be true. However, at this time this is not the case. The focus of the teachers now is remote learning. Those children who have to stay in school will have access to the same curriculum as is provided by remote learning.

To confirm, your child has a key worker place with us and this is a full-time place. We are unable to offer a flexible approach as this is unmanageable for staff in terms of planning and as school is operating as normal for key workers the offer is Monday to Friday only.

Once again, we thank all our key workers, particularly those on the frontline whose work is crucial to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support and if you feel you can accommodate your child at home or you find your circumstances change in the coming weeks please inform school immediately.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding in this very difficult situation. We hope that the light of 2021 will get brighter month by month.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Kelly".

Mrs L Kelly

Headteacher