



Learning Together

1st January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

As you have heard in the news and other media sources, some pupils return to school in January has been delayed by the Department of Education (DE).

We received written DE guidance late yesterday afternoon and I have noted below the relevant points for parents: -

Monday 4th January – Preparation Day for Remote Learning

- DE have granted schools a day for preparation for remote learning, we will use Monday 4th January for this, no pupils will be in school on Monday 4th January just school staff.
- During this day we will work at preparing learning packs for pupils – more information to follow on collection arrangements for pupil learning packs.

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 8th January – Remote Learning

- Remote learning will start on Tuesday 5th January for pupils – teachers will be available between 9am – 4pm to support pupils with their learning.
- Vulnerable children and the children of key workers – will be offered supervised learning within school. Please note supervised learning is not face to face teaching and pupils will be doing the same activities as children who are at home. A booking form for this provision will be released shortly. (The DE Definitions of a vulnerable child and a key worker child are provided in appendices one and two at the end of this note.)
- School Meals – more information to follow on Monday.

Monday 11th January – All pupils will attend school for face to face teaching

Year 7 Pupils and Parents

We particularly think of our Year 7 pupils who are sitting their first AQE assessment on Saturday 9th January. We really wish we could have our Year 7 pupils in school with us next week but please don't worry, everyone has worked hard at their studies and are more than ready to do their first paper.

We are in difficult times and these changes I know will bring complications to you our parents. We only wish things could be different and all pupils could be in school as normal.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jamison

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – NORTH EASTERN REGION

Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School

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Principal: Mrs J Jamison B Ed(Hons) PQH(NI)





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Appendix One

Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
- A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
- A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
- A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
- A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
- A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
- A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
- A child who has been placed for adoption.
- Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

Appendix Two

Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)

(Please note that if one parent meets this definition then the child can attend school)

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
- Education and childcare. This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
- Utilities, and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
- Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
- Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

