



School Closure

24th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to inform you that, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, I have made the difficult decision to close Lough View with immediate effect until further notice. To date, we have made these decisions, alongside the wider Board of Governors and senior staff, in the best interests of the school. Our aim has always been to ensure the health and safety of the pupils, staff and the wider school community.

I was keen to support the Minister for Education's request in relation to the provision of childcare of children of key workers. Indeed, myself and the Senior Leadership Team spent most of the weekend talking with parents, carrying out a risk assessment, gathering resources and seeking answers from external agencies regarding a whole myriad of issues. However, having completed a thorough risk assessment, it is clear to me that due to several factors we are no longer able to provide safe childcare for children of key workers or Lough View staff.

I am also well aware of new, increased safety measures which were put into place late last night to minimise the risk of infection. Consequently, the school will only be open on an ad hoc basis **for key staff only**.

I am very sorry to disappoint those parents/carers who had planned to use our care as a last resort for their children but I hope that you will understand how I can not put your child, or our school staff, at risk until a sensible and safe way forward has been mapped out by the Department of Education.

It is my understanding that arrangements are being put in place for parents of children entitled to Free School Meals, but as yet I have had no further information.

These are challenging times and I greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in limiting the long-term impact of this potentially devastating virus. Please continue to follow the clear guidelines as set out by the Government and keep yourselves safe.

If there is anything further I can do to assist you or family, please contact me via the school email address.

Regards

S Spillane

Principal