

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



Coronavirus update Friday 20th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government have again updated the list of key workers. As you can imagine, this is becoming a really difficult process to plan and manage.

However, we would like to politely remind everyone that we are in a national infection control situation and that some of the key workers on the list are working from home. The guidance states that if you can keep your children at home, because you are working from home or have alternative possibilities, then you should do. See below;

Government advice on school closures 19th March 2020

'If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'.

We are very conscious of the fact that school are offering a supervisory service for front line NHS staff who need us and will need us even more so in the near future. If our staff become infected or need to self-isolate, due to large numbers of students being sent to school, we will have no option but to close and will therefore not be able to support the families for whom both parents are key worker.

We have 60 families currently, whose families are either single parent key workers or for whom both parents are working for the NHS/emergency services. This already means that whilst trying to balance staff following national guidelines of working from home where possible and looking after their own children, many will have to attend, forcing their children's schools to stay open also.

This is a time when all of us need to pull together to support our doctors, nurses, police, pharmacists and deliverers of food and medical supplies. To this end, we reiterate that if you are working from home, your children should remain at home with you.

Normal lessons will not be delivered, as this would hugely disadvantage those directed to stay home by our Government (95% of our students).

We are committed to standing by our NHS and emergency front line staff, so please support us by enabling numbers to remain low and infection risk to be minimised.

If you feel you should be on the key worker list and your child needs to attend school because you are not working from home and your partner is a key worker also, please contact school on 0161 764 3186.

Students who are entitled to free school meals will all be sent home with a food voucher which can be cashed in at Tesco, equivalent to the cost of a free school meal each day for the next week. We hope this helps in the interim and we will await further guidance from the Government regarding this. Please ensure your child hands their voucher to you.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Corrigan
Headteacher

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

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