

From the Office of the Minister of Education – 19th March 2020

“The aim of closing schools to pupils was taken to reduce the number of children in schools to enhance the effectiveness of our response to Covid-19 outbreak. However, during this time we need to continue to facilitate those children who are vulnerable, or those children who are critical to the Covid-19 response who would otherwise have no option but to stay at home to ensure safe supervision of their children.

Guidance on vulnerable children will be provided.

Key workers are those who are maintaining essential public services during the Covid-19 response. The definition of key worker will be flexible and dependant on the circumstance and requirements over the course of this critical period. There will be flexibility shown on the definition of key workers to ensure all those who need support receive it. The list is not prescriptive. However, to give some guidance the following outlines the broad categories of what would be defined as a key worker.”

- **Health and Social Care:** Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers
- **Education and childcare:** Nursery and teaching staff, social workers and specialist education professionals
- **Public safety and national security:** Civilians and officers in the police, Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- **Transport:** Those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating
- **Utilities and Communication:** Staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies; key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
- **Food and other necessary goods:** Those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, and those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g hygiene, medical)
- **Other workers** essential to delivering key public services
- **Key national and local government staff** including administrative occupations