



"Hand in hand  
we **learn** and  
**together we achieve**"

## Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Primary School

Price Street, Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 8DU

t: 0151 652 3366 f: 0151 653 7248

e: [schooloffice@ourlady-saintedwards.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@ourlady-saintedwards.wirral.sch.uk)

[www.ourlady-saintedwards.co.uk](http://www.ourlady-saintedwards.co.uk)

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government announcement this morning I am now writing to let you know that we are offering your child an **emergency child care place**. The government has closed all schools as of this afternoon.

As anticipated there was a high demand for places for our emergency keyworker childcare provision which will be run from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at Our Lady & St. Edward's Catholic Primary School. We have very limited places available due to the necessity of keeping this provision at the correct scale to protect both our staff and the children who attend. If the provision is too large it negates any benefits of the social distancing measures the government has imposed and through associated contacts children and staff will be exposed to unacceptable risk.

This is not 'business as usual' or a holiday club and all medical advisers are clear that the safest place for children and families to be at present is **at home with as little social contact as possible**. These emergency childcare places are intended for families who have no other adult at home to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus. Thus the first tier consists of frontline medical workers and emergency services where **both parents are required to work or one in the case of single-parent families**.

Thank you to all our keyworkers for your commitment to our public services. My Governors and I know that this is not a convenient solution for all our key workers but we hope you appreciate that this is an extraordinary request at short notice.

### Staffing

Please be aware that school will be operating a skeleton staff for as long as possible. We will provide childcare with attention to mitigating risk of infection. School is open from 8.55 am to 3.30pm. Given that this is emergency childcare you are only entitled to access this provision during your working hours between these times. We will provide further information regarding your individual arrangements early next week in discussion with you. We apologise for the short notice but as you appreciate we are all working in difficult circumstances and the Government is releasing information daily.

Should it be no longer safe to run this child care due to infection or staffing concerns we will contact you immediately. We will be providing school meals which will be charged at the normal rate unless you qualify for free school meals, children are welcome to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer.

As school has closed we do not expect children to wear their school uniforms, but to wear sensible clothes and footwear, as they will be participating in a range of activities.

Your sincerely,

Mrs E McGunigall

Headteacher



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designated by



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