

A chara, seo thíos an méid atá aontaithe ag an Roinn Oideachais. Thíos, chífidh tú cad é a chiallaíonn sé dúinn ag Gaelscoil an Chaistil.

A chara, below please see what has been decided by the Department of Education. I shall note below what it means for us at Gaelscoil an Chaistil.

Most pupils in Northern Ireland will not be returning to school in the first week of January as planned.

Primary school pupils will be taught remotely until 11 January, after which they will return to the classroom.

Childcare settings including those attached to schools, pre-school facilities, nurseries and special schools will be open as usual.

So, at present, the new date for face-to-face teaching for primary schools is Monday 11 January

This is how next week will look in Gaelscoil an Chaistil.

Our Naíscoil children will be in, as planned on Thursday and Friday.

Thursday 7 January will be a planning day for our Rang 1 to 7 teachers.

On Friday 8 January work will be posted online for children to complete and vulnerable children and children of key workers will be in school for ‘supervised learning’.

Monday 11th – Naíscoil to Rang 7 children will be at school as normal.

Definitions of ‘vulnerable’ children and a list of key workers are noted below. Only one parent has to be a key worker. They must be working on the day in question and must have investigated alternative childcare arrangements. If no alternative can be found, please email me at the school address – gaelscoilanchaistil@gmail.com by Tuesday evening.

Grma.
Brídín

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.

Definition of key workers:

- 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.