



St. Joseph's Boys' School

16 March 2020
"Improvement for All"

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Contingency Plan for St Joseph's Boys' School in the event of a school closure due to Covid-19

In the event that St Joseph's Boys' School is directed to close, I would like to share the school closure plans that will be implemented as a protective measure against the spread of Covid-19 should this be required. To date we have been following the Public Health Agency advice as circulated by the Department of Education and CCMS. We have shared and will continue to share this advice with you through Twitter, Facebook and school text system as appropriate.

We have also reminded pupils of good hygiene habits through signage and reminders during form class and assemblies. We have suspended formal assemblies and other events which require large numbers of pupils together. We have a staggered lunch that reduces gathering of larger groups for an extended period of time also.

All students and teachers have a school email address and by using Microsoft Office 365 teachers have the means to communicate with pupils remotely. Teachers will allocate work to all of their classes using online classrooms such as Microsoft teams, Fronter, One Note and Google Classrooms. Please ask your son about this and he will show you how he can access his account using the access codes he has already been provided with. Information regarding the installation of Microsoft Office 365 at home and accessing MySchool documents is available through the school website and school facebook account. If your son has not got a code please message the school via facebook or email info@stjosephs.derry.ni.sch.uk. We have also included instructions with this letter.

In the event of a closure, teachers are planning to be in contact with students by working remotely. Pupils should check their Microsoft teams, Fronter and Google classrooms for their different subjects daily. We ask that school hours are respected in online communications. Understanding must be given to the fact that Broadband access may be limited in some areas.

Some teachers have already sent out packs and other resources to pupils. This work is to facilitate those pupils studying for external exam outcomes in Year 11, 12, 13 and 14 and staff will provide work for Key stage 3 pupils also.

Students have also been advised to bring home all necessary books and notes thus enabling study and school work to be completed from home. Students should feel reassured that they have a lot of work covered and the examination classes especially should take the opportunity to consolidate their learning on the specification material they have completed to date.

We will keep you advised and up to date on any further developments. In the event of a sudden school closure, parents will be informed by text message / facebook in the first instance. We will continue all other contact through our social media sites: Twitter, Facebook and our school website. Please use email if needing to contact the school.

Please also see below Sway with further information on how pupils can access Microsoft teams from home.
<https://sway.office.com/CTpwFsYZJVHFmvQs?ref=Link>

We would encourage all pupils to follow their daily timetable as much as possible and maintain a school routine. We recognise that this is a very anxious time for all and fully respect that parents may be reluctant to send pupils to school, only you know your family's personal circumstances and we respect any parental decisions to keep pupils off school at this time of extreme uncertainty. Therefore, it is essential that all pupils are accessing work posted online.

We will keep in our prayers those who have been directly affected by the Covid-19 and the medical professionals at the forefront of treating this virus.

God bless and protect all during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Martina McCarron
Principal

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Foyle Learning Community

