



# Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch

Principal: Peter Dobbin BA (Hons), PGCE, MSc, PQH (NI)



Dear Parent,

It is with great relief that the decision has been made to close schools. We believe this to be the right decision. School will close today at 5pm and will not reopen under normal conditions for the foreseeable future. The school building will be closed on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We still await clarity on external examinations and how these results will be worked out. We ask for your patience in the interim until this information is communicated.

All our students are now off-site and 'remote/distance learning' through Microsoft Teams/ Google Classroom and email. This will be an interesting challenge for us all in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we would ask your support for the following:

- All communication must be done using C2K. Personal email accounts will not be responded to;
- Please encourage your daughter(s) to check their C2K account daily;
- Pupils should contact school via email if there are issues with passwords or accessibility;
- If a pupil needs counselling support, she should contact the school via email to avail of telephone communication with one of our counsellors. Please be aware there may be a waiting list for this and children already availing of this support will be prioritised;
- Teachers will only be available for contact during normal school hours;
- Parents should only contact the school via email: [admin@assumption.ballynahinch.ni.sch.uk](mailto:admin@assumption.ballynahinch.ni.sch.uk);
- If a pupil needs to access the building for anything, then this should be arranged by email;
- Students should be reminded that **all** communication with teachers should adhere to the same levels of respect and courtesy expected in the classroom;
- Google classroom / Microsoft Team codes will be communicated via email;
- Teachers may make audio calls to their classes. Students should only engage via message or audio;
- Video communication is not appropriate at this time so students should ensure all video links are disengaged;
- Parents should not join any of the Google Classroom groups as this is a breach of Safeguarding guidelines.

We are now working with the Government and relevant agencies to address the needs of pupils who are vulnerable or who currently avail of Free School Meals.

The children of Key Workers in Years 8-9-10 only (list below) will also be provided for, if necessary. This is to ensure that those people who are on the frontline are fully supported by us. Please let us know if you feel your child will need to attend school as soon as possible, via email.

We will also reach out to our local community and support those in need as best we can over the next few weeks or months. Please look after yourself and your families and keep an eye on your neighbour.

May Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us!

Peter Dobbin  
Principal

24 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch, County Down, Northern Ireland BT24 8EA

Tel: 028 9756 2250

email: [admin@assumption.ballynahinch.ni.sch.uk](mailto:admin@assumption.ballynahinch.ni.sch.uk)

website: [www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk](http://www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk)





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## Key Workers

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. 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 nursery 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, services and waste disposal
- 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)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

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