



In all things faithful

Date 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

St Damian's RC Science College

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Dear Parent / Carer

### Important information regarding student attendance – from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. We all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can now stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

**Whilst we are closed for the majority of pupils from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March onwards we will be open for pupils whose parents are keyworkers and vulnerable children.**

#### A) Key workers

At midnight, the government published a list of those parents/carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The list includes the following; Health and Social care, education and childcare, key public services, local and national government, food and other necessary goods, public safety and security, transport, utilities, communication and financial services.

I am extremely grateful to all of these key workers who are looking after us all and keeping our essential services going. In return, my superb staff team are going 'the extra mile' to provide provision for the children. It is critical to note, however, that this provision in school should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives (see guidance). **The government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for children who absolutely need to attend.**

Should you need to take up this provision, please contact us through the following email address, [keyworker@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@stdamians.co.uk) and follow the instructions.

#### B) Specialist Support Provision

Those children with safeguarding and welfare needs, including children on child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education Health and Care plans are also able to attend school.

#### Free School Meals

An e-Voucher will be sent directly by text message to all eligible parents. This ensures the voucher is easily accessible on your mobile phone when you visit the supermarket. All vouchers can be used in-store or online at eligible stores such as Asda and Tesco. Further information and guidance will be on our website.

God bless and take care.

Mr Logue - Headteacher

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