



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, the Welsh Education Minister has made the announcement this week that all schools in Wales will be closed to pupils as of Friday 20th March 2020. Her full statement can be found here:

https://gov.wales/statement-minister-education-kirsty-williams-school-closures-wales?fbclid=IwAR0xxSVE7UJ6o3koG5wntNJ0WsjphKQRt0ZqBw_tEDhC17MlnPVw9Zea6aE

We have since been advised that schools are now being re-purposed to provide emergency childcare for key workers who will be supporting essential services throughout this national crisis. All educational provision has been suspended. We do not know how long this will be the case.

Our cluster of schools is proud to be supporting those providing essential services such as healthcare. Please see the information sheet that follows this letter for more details about the way in which we will be doing this, and the provision that will be available to those that qualify for it.

With regard to continued learning, the Easter break for pupils has been brought forward and will begin on Monday 23rd March. Pupils are not expected to carry out learning during the two week holiday from this point. Each school will, however, be making contact with you regarding activities that your child can carry out should you wish them to, and with further updates on possible home-based learning following the holiday.

As we do not yet know how long school closure will be in place, the situation will be kept under constant review and you will receive daily updates and news. Bishop Vaughan's website will provide these updates and news, as well as links to any specific information on the websites of all of the Catholic primary schools. You will find the school website here: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/news> and can follow the school on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/Bishop_Vaughan.

This is a very unusual set of circumstances for our schools, as for all, and we know that you will have lots of questions. We will do our best to answer some of those within these daily updates.

As a group of school dedicated to ensuring the wellbeing of your children throughout this most difficult period, we assure you of our commitment to supporting you in the very best ways that we can and we thank you for your understanding in this exceptionally challenging and constantly evolving situation.

With our prayers for you and your families throughout this time, as always -

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Pole, Mrs. Heald, Mrs. Stack, Mr. Lewis and Miss Richards

Headteachers of Bishop Vaughan, St. Joseph's Cathedral School, St. Joseph's Clydach, St. Illtyd's and St. David's Schools.

Key Information: Pupils and Parents/ Carers – Friday 20th March 2020

Bishop Vaughan Cluster of Schools



Bishop Vaughan, St. Illtyd's, St. David's, St. Joseph's Cathedral School, St. Joseph's Clydach

All Catholic schools will be open next week for emergency childcare of key workers (definition of 'key worker' link: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/coronavirusadvice>). This provision will be for pupils aged 3-14 years.

- **Primary age children** may attend their usual school or any other of the primary schools (e.g. if another is closer to the parent workplace)
- **Bishop Vaughan pupils** (up to the age of 14) may attend Bishop Vaughan, or any of the primary schools (e.g. if siblings attend a primary/ if a primary school is closer to the parent workplace)
- **Year 5 and 6 pupils** from any of the cluster primaries may attend Bishop Vaughan if it is closer to the parent workplace

The purpose of this provision is emergency childcare. There will be **no educational provision** on site, therefore those children not accessing it will not miss any educational provision whatsoever.

Parents should only use this provision when actually **attending their workplace to carry out their essential roles**. The reason for school closures has been to reduce virus spread through social distancing. Any non-essential use of this provision increases the risk to the health of the whole community.

If parents are expected to work at home at this time, they should NOT send their children to this emergency childcare provision at school. This again would increase the level of risk to their own children and to those of essential workers such as NHS staff unnecessarily.

The latest Government guidelines state that the safest option for children is to remain at home.

Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided, though parents/ carers may choose to supply their child with a packed lunch. School uniform is not required as formal education will not be taking place.

Emergency Childcare Forms to request this provision can be accessed here (<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/forms>), and all settings will need full contact details to be supplied even if the child accessing the provision is already a pupil of the school. These forms also parents to indicate the days this provision will be required, however this is simply to assess need and aid planning and each setting will accept changes to this as required.