



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Thank you for your patience this week as we have focused on getting children logged into Hwb, subscribed to classes and downloading work to complete. It will take a few days for everything to operate smoothly, so do please bear with us. Remember that any difficulties with Hwb should be directed to [closurehelpline@stteilos.com](mailto:closurehelpline@stteilos.com). We will get back to you as soon as we can! All resources are currently in the form of a PDF. Work should be completed on paper, at home. Currently, there is no option for the electronic submission of work. Think of the next few weeks as 'keeping things ticking over'. Further plans for home learning will then follow.

***Cancellation of examinations***

Following the ministerial statement about the cancellation of the summer series of examinations, many questions have been raised. I met with students in Key Stages 4 and 5 on Thursday 19 March 2020 to talk through these issues and provide reassurance. At this time, it remains unclear exactly how grades will be determined. However, I will be working with the examination board, qualifications authority and local and national governments to ensure that the interests of our pupils are best served. It is likely that schools will play a key role in determining fair and reasonable grades based on our detailed knowledge of your child's learning and progress. Of course, I will update you about this when I know more.

***School closure***

**The school is now closed.** The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. It is imperative that, as far as possible, we minimise social contact. **This means if children can stay safely in their home, they should.** Only this will limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The overarching public health priority remains lowering the spread of infection and reducing the risks to vulnerable people across our communities. There is an urgent need, therefore, to minimise the number of children travelling to, and socialising in, school settings. Quite simply the fewer people having social contact, the more effective the overall impact of the current measures will be.

From Monday 23 March 2020 to Wednesday 25 March 2020, St Teilo's will run an emergency supervisory provision for children of health and social care and emergency workers. This provision will run during the normal school day for children in Years 7 to 9 only. I wish to be clear: this is an emergency provision for parents who are health and social care or emergency workers with no possible way of ensuring their child is cared for at home or in another appropriate setting.

I fully anticipate that the number of children accessing this emergency provision will be very few. If you believe that your specific health and social care or emergency role is necessary for the continuation of essential public service – and if you have exhausted every possibility of ensuring your child is safely cared for – then please contact me directly at [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com). Access to this emergency provision will be by prior arrangement with the Headteacher only.

From Thursday 26 March 2020, St Teilo's will collaborate with Eastern High School, St Illtyd's Catholic High School and Willows High School to provide an emergency supervisory provision on the above terms, based at the Eastern High School campus. Again, should you require access to this provision, please contact [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com) to explain your particular circumstances and the difficulties you are facing in ensuring alternative care for your child. I will then work with you to ensure the needs of your family are met.

Teachers have a critical role to play in the response to the virus and will contribute ardently to the national effort. We now require the support of parents and carers, and of the wider community, to allow us to fulfil our duties.

### ***The role of teachers during school closure***

The school has put in place a detailed business continuity plan to ensure that the needs of children, their families and the community are met during this difficult time. The plan also focuses on how we will recover from this crisis as a school and a community. Teachers will be working from home to:

- Make weekly telephone contact with all pupils and their parents;
- Respond to email requests for support with work;
- Engage in professional learning activities;
- Plan and prepare resources.

Further, teachers will be providing emergency supervision to the children of health and social care or emergency workers with no possible way of ensuring their child is cared for at home or in another appropriate setting.

In addition, school staff are being deployed to:

- Run the local foodbank, every Wednesday from St Phillip Evans church hall;
- Manage an advice surgery from the school for families who are struggling, every Wednesday from 10am until 12pm (you can drop off donations for the foodbank during this time or, indeed, receive foodbank vouchers);
- Conduct evening patrols in the community in partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing Team to ensure children are safe;
- Make telephone calls and doorstep visits to vulnerable children;
- Operate an emergency helpline for families in need of assistance (**07568357563**);
- Support partner agencies in undertaking their statutory duties.

Because the unfolding situation is changing rapidly, our response, too, must evolve quickly. We are grateful to parents and carers for affording us the time and space to react and respond.

### ***Free school meals and vulnerable pupils***

I am awaiting details from the local authority about the provision of meals for children in receipt of free school meals. As soon as I know more, I shall update you.

The school has designed a schedule of contact, by telephone, email and face to face, for vulnerable pupils, including children who are looked after. Details will be made available to individuals affected.

### ***A final thought...***

I wish to let every parent, carer and young person know that we are working hard behind the scenes to provide clarity and certainty in the strangest and least certain of times. I am sorry that I cannot provide answers to all your questions but I will keep you updated, each step of the way.

With every prayer and blessing,

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher

*God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with You in glory,  
Jesus Christ our lord.  
Amen.*