



Scoil Chríost Rí,
Rockfield, Coolaney, Co. Sligo. F56 FW32
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26th April 2021

Re: Possible Class Closure

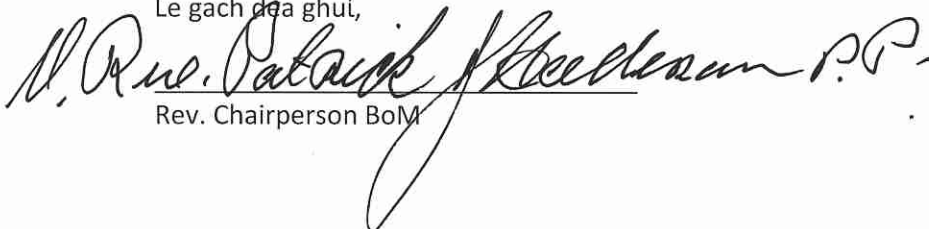
Dear Parent/Guardian,

There is a nationwide shortage of substitute teachers and SNAs at present. This unfortunately coincides with a time when unprecedented numbers of teachers and SNAs are no longer available to work in schools due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Some are obliged to work from home, while others are isolating or restricting their movements on HSE advice which has put further strain on availability of substitutes.

The BoM is presently conducting a Risk Assessment of staffing needs in relation to operating the school safely in a COVID-19 environment and possible staffing shortages. The Board will explore every option available to secure a substitute teacher/SNA when required. However, should the need arise, the BoM on H&S grounds, may have to close a class and move the pupils concerned to on-line learning. This will only be considered as a last resort, but the Board of Management's first concern, as always, must be the health and safety of the pupils and staff of the school.

It is our earnest hope that this situation will not come to pass in our school, but we think it prudent to advise you fully of the situation. It has already happened in many schools around the country. We are aware that the Dept. of Education is working with the Education Partners to overcome obstacles to the temporary recruitment of substitute teachers. Because these obstacles pertain to qualification and Garda vetting, they are not easily overcome, even on a temporary basis. However, we are told that some solutions are being explored.

Le gach dea ghúí,


Rev. Chairperson BoM