

Following the announcement tonight of further big changes aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus, the Minister for Education has issued the following statement saying that schools and childcare are still open for the children of critical workers, and thanking teaching and childcare professionals for their dedication in this hour of national need.

Statement by Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education

I'd like to thank parents for listening to the advice and keeping most children at home. I'd be grateful if tomorrow morning you only use schools or childcare as a last resort.

The advice has not changed as a result of tonight's decision to further restrict movement, which our First Minister, along with other UK leaders took with the sole aim of slowing the spread of coronavirus.

Children should be at home wherever possible, critical workers will still need to have safe care arrangements for their children. Our schools and childcare settings are providing a vital service to support critical workers and our most vulnerable children.

Those involved in the current arrangements looking after children should continue. Many thanks to our amazing teaching and childcare professionals for their commitment in this time of national need.

This situation will continue for the immediate term but we will be reviewing with healthcare professionals, local authorities and our teaching unions.