

Pastoral Care, Safeguarding and Pupil Well Being – Independent School Counselling

Service update

25th March 2020

Please read the following important information concerning the Independent School Counselling service provided in school by FamilyworksNI. Familyworks operate across all secondary schools in Northern Ireland, including Coleraine Grammar School.

Familyworks wish to alert pupils and parent-carers that the Independent Counselling Service that they provide to individual pupils will move from being based in schools to being provided via a secure online medium during the period of enforced school closures. Familyworks will now continue to provide school counselling through:

- Secure Online 1-1 Video Calling Counselling
- Telephone Counselling

The service will be offered via online video conferencing through an end-to-encrypted medium and through telephone contact as it cannot be delivered face-to-face at present.

Existing clients who are already seeing our School Counsellor, Jean Anderson, **do not need to do anything**. Jean will contact these pupils via their school email to begin the online/telephone counselling process. The same will apply to any pupil who has already been referred to the school counsellor and is currently on a waiting list. “Drop Ins” will be delivered by the school counsellor on the telephone/online to young people who are currently on the waiting list. This way Familyworks can manage risk and check in with each individual pupil.

The Familyworks website address is www.familyworksni.com and pupils who wish to be referred for School Counselling may click on the Post Primary Schools link to complete an online Counselling Referral Form. This form will then go directly to the school counsellor for action and allocation to an appointment when an appointment slot becomes available. Counselling will take place at the same time and day as the counsellor would usually be in school (Castlerock Road campus pupils Monday, Lodge Road Campus pupils Wednesday).

For further information and resources to help support our young people at this difficult time, the Familyworks Facebook and Instagram pages may be found at:

<https://m.facebook.com/familyworksni>

and

<https://instagram.com/familyworkscounselling>

Health and well-being

The Headmaster has stressed that the health and well-being of our pupils, staff and whole school community is our priority in the coming weeks and months. Please do not hesitate to use the communication channels described here as and when you and your son/daughter may require counselling support.

Mr Hamilton
Vice Principal (Pastoral)
Designated Teacher for Child Protection