CRITICAL WORKER & VULNERABLE CHILD CRITERIA

The leadership of McAuley Catholic High School have agreed this criterion to give extra clarity and consistency around the critical worker list.

The Government's definition of a 'critical worker' and a 'vulnerable child' is extensive and unless we prioritise, we may not be able to support the vulnerable children, families and workers that require this help the most. We have used the Government's official guidance as well as the Government's official list of critical workers to put critical workers into a priority system from 1 to 4.

Our first priority is children considered vulnerable at any level. After that, those families where both parents (or single parents) are critical workers. We have prioritised school staff* within priority 1 in the knowledge that many staff members are local to the area – this should mean that by utilising local school staff within our own schools, we will be able to support many more local families with this childcare arrangement. Although this is an agreed tiered system, we will make a final decision based on our overall staffing capacity to identify how many children we can remain open to and this may change on a daily basis.

Current government guidance regarding eligibility for a school place is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can **potentially** send their children to school if required. However, we must emphasise that the government guidance also states that "many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."

Vulnerable Child Priority List: A child who is/has			
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
 An assigned social worker An EHCP Looked After children others at the provider and local authority's discretion including students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health 	 Previously Looked After On the edge of social care / in the process of being referred 	 Open to Early Help A young carer Living in temporary accommodation 	 Adopted or special guardianship