



Irish National Teachers' Organisation
Cumann Múinteoirí Éireann

Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Joe McHugh T.D,
Minister for Education and Skills,
Department of Education and Skills,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
Do1 RC96

minister@education.gov.ie.

Dear Minister,

First of all, I wish to thank you and your officials for the various clarifications you have given to schools since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis and for acknowledging the work of teachers again yesterday.

Many of our members have been in contact with INTO expressing deep concern for our most vulnerable pupils - those who are homeless, who come from families in our most acutely disadvantaged areas, children with complex needs and children in direct provision centres. Some of these children live in circumstances where, for reasons of accommodation or language challenges, it is very difficult to have any continuity of learning.

Many principals and teachers, including home school community liaison teachers and special education teachers have been reaching out to these children in the last ten days. They are telling us that a coordinated cross-departmental response is needed to ensure that these children receive necessary tuition, food and care in the weeks ahead.

We in INTO would be happy to meet with officials of your department and other relevant departments to explore how these vital supports might be delivered for our most necessitous pupils. We ask that you nominate a senior official of your department with whom we can progress these issues with a view to meeting the needs of these children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in relation to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Boyle
General Secretary

JB/RW