

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Department of

Education

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18 March 2020

To all educational settings

Earlier this afternoon the First Minister and Deputy First Minister made an announcement relating to the threat of COVID-19. Part of this concerned schools and wider educational settings.

This is to confirm that schools, pre-schools, and statutory nurseries will close at the end of the day on Friday 20th March for all pupils and children.

We intend to send out more detailed information tomorrow. This remains a rapidly changing and challenging situation and I appreciate the dedication of all staff working in the sector at this incredibly difficult time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Weir'.

**PETER WEIR MLA
MINISTER OF EDUCATION**