

Dear Primary School

April 2019

**NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE LAUNCHED!**

We are writing to let you know that **Family Support NI** have launched a new, improved, brighter and better website which you can view now at [www.familysupportni.gov.uk](http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk).

The Family Support NI website ([www.familysupportni.gov.uk](http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk)) is funded by the Health and Social Care Board and the Departments of Health and Education to **provide information** on all types of Family Support services, including ALL REGISTERED childcare, throughout Northern Ireland.

This is a unique on-line directory of local family support services including statutory, community and voluntary sectors. It is designed to be used by front line staff, families and young people to enable them to access information about available services in Northern Ireland.

Details provided on the website include contact details such as name of service, address, telephone number, contact name, email address etc. There is also a brief overview of the service, including details about how it can be accessed/referrals.

**New features and improvements include;**

- **Improved 'Childcare Search' function** - easy to use and with extra filters to meet each user's requirements eg. vacancies available, School Pick-up, Registered for HMRC Tax Free Childcare; Offering a Breakfast Club, suitable for specific ages etc;
- **More helpful additional information for Families** (eg. Financial Help for Childcare Costs, Benefits of registered Childcare; How to Find Registered Childcare; etc.)
- **Easier access to specific information that families need** (how and where to access specific services e.g. Educational Support, Financial/Welfare Advice, Family Support and Housing etc.)
- **Translation Function** - can be used to translate details of Family Support Services into a range of languages – this function is very useful to users who do not have English as their first language.
- **Listings of all Pre-School provision in NI** (including Statutory Nursery Schools/Units)

***We think information on the website may be useful to young people, parents and front line staff.*** We have enclosed posters and some information leaflets about the website. We would be very grateful if these could be displayed on a notice board and disseminated as appropriate.

***We would be very grateful if you would include a link to this website on your school website***

If you require any more information about the website or would like more leaflets/posters, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@familysupportni.gov.uk](mailto:info@familysupportni.gov.uk) or Tel 0845 600 6483

Yours sincerely

**Family Support Website Team**

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