

I note that staggered class times are being proposed to allow social distancing to be in place.

Whilst fully appreciating the need to limit the numbers please bear in mind, that for any parent with more than one child, it will be extremely challenging to manage this without them spending the whole day in the car. The children of such families will also be forced to spend hours in the car or walking to and from school to enable siblings to attend school if they are all going in at different times.

That's not a productive use of their time and will make for a pretty miserable experience all round. In rural areas the problem is exacerbated even more by the time it takes to get to and from school.

It also means that parent - statistically usually the mother - will find it almost impossible to work from home if that's what they've been doing to date.

My experience as a parent of three children tells me that schools rarely think of the practical implications of ensuring children from one family are in schools at different times even in normal times. As a parent I would not be sending my children to school if it meant they would be attending at different times. Logistically it would be very challenging and I'd be unable to work from home.

I suggest this can most easily be dealt with by ensuring all siblings are in school at the same time. This also will limit their exposure to groups of people and may help contain any infection they or others may be carrying.