

Draft Plan for Re-opening of the School

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
- Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full school day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.
- It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to school and the consequent risk of its spread.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Assumptions

- All classes operate within a bubble system.
- The school is split into 2 groups with each class group having different starting times, break times, lunch times and finishing times.
- Group A will be : Misneach, Junior Infants, 1st, 3rd, 5th; 11-11.15 and 12.00-12.30.

Group B will be Senior Infants, Féileacáin, 2nd, 4th and 6th classes; 11.15 to 11.30 and 12.30 to 1 pm.
- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods.
- All Junior to 2nd class pupils are divided into allocated pods. The pods are designated on a termly rotation basis.
- Hand sanitiser is available at all entry and exit points and in all classrooms, on yard and in support rooms.
- All classes participate in regular and routine hand washing as per a rota and in a pod by pod basis.
- All pupils keep their books, bag, pencil case, lunch items and coats in a sealed tub.
- All pupils have access to tissues, hand gel and wipes for the cleaning of their allocated seating area/pod and to ensure hand hygiene and cough etiquette is followed.
- Pupils are taught to cover their sneeze and shown how to wash their hands properly.

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Start Times

9.20 to 9.30 Single pupil families.

9.30 to 9.40 All other pupils.

Pupils go straight to classes. There will be no assembly in the school yard in the mornings.

Finish Times

Féileacáin and Misneach 1.50 pm.

Junior Infants 1.55pm.

Senior Infants 2pm.

First and second 2.50pm.

Third and Fourth 2.55pm.

Fifth and sixth 3.00pm.

Parents stay in cars/ await pupils outdoors on the footpath if you are walking.

Collection of Children during the School Day.

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply.

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office in advance or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out. Please bring your own pen with you.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so and by prior arrangement
- All visitors to the school must sign in for contact tracing and have their temperature taken.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times.
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms.. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises.
- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home.
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided.

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- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school.

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Children who are generally unwell.

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school.

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will provide activities to support the child's learning at home on Seesaw .

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class.

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19.

- The parents of all children in the child's pod will be notified.
- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

Personal Equipment.

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children in each class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.

Shared Equipment.

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes and spray/aerosol cleaning products will take place after each use and at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

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Learning Support.

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work with a minimum number of class bubbles.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

PPE.

All staff wear medical grade face masks and face coverings. Additional PPE is supplied and used for all First Aid and Intimate care needs.

Teacher Absence and Substitution.

In the event that teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

PE.

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and use of equipment should be limited and cleaned afterwards as appropriate. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points should be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day.

Extra-curricular Activities.

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. However, it would not be recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time. The staggered finishing times will also make the scheduling of after-school activities problematic. Further updates will be provided in September.