



Covid 19 Response Plan – Information for Parents

The school will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 31st August.

For 1st to 6th classes school will commence at 9.00 o'clock and finish at 2.45.

Infant classes will begin at 9.10 and finish at 1.55.

Children will proceed directly to their classrooms staff will be outside to guide children to their new rooms on the first day.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Sanitiser dispensers will be installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, at the door of each classroom, etc. Soap (which emulsifies at low temperatures) and water is available in all classrooms and toilets. Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

Handwashing and Sanitising Regime for Children

Time	Method
Upon entering school	Sanitiser
Before eating at little break	Handwashing
After returning from the yard	Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty)
Before eating at big break	Handwashing
After returning from the yard	Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty)
Before going home	Sanitiser
*After using toilet	Handwashing

In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, desks, sink and toilet facilities.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Waste will be collected daily by our cleaner.

Changes to Classroom Layouts

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms, to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

The children and their teachers will work in class bubbles. A class bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class - from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day.

It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors so there is no requirement for children from junior infants to 2nd class to maintain a physical distance within their class bubble.

Children from 3rd class to 6th class will be distanced insofar as is practicable, with approximately 1m distancing achieved between pods in all rooms. Teachers will modify their classrooms to create as much space as possible.

Shelving and unnecessary furniture have been removed from classrooms to create more space.

Lunches

Pupils will be given time to eat lunch in class as usual. We will be asking parents to remind pupils to eat directly from their lunch bags, and not to use the surface of the table to place their food on. Please remind children that sharing of food is not permitted. Lunch boxes and drinks bottles should be washed thoroughly, inside and out, each day.

PE

Where possible, PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment should be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. Classes may take additional breaks outside during the school day.

Pupils' Equipment and Stationery

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc. to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. This should be kept in school and separate items should be kept at home for homework as necessary.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc. and which will be labelled with their name.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

PPE

The Department of Education advise that face coverings should be worn by all staff who cannot maintain a 2m social distance from pupils. The BoM is supplying all staff with the personal protection equipment they will need. Gloves and aprons will also be provided for providing intimate care or first aid.

Ventilation

Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces. To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible.

Assembly

Whole school assemblies will not take place for the foreseeable future.

Payments

We have set up an online payment system that minimises the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents are asked to use this online payment system please. Where this is not possible, cash payment will be accepted in a sealed envelope with the child's name on it.

Wet Days

On wet days the classes will remain indoors as normal. The teacher on duty will supervise from the classroom door and only enter the room if absolutely necessary. Senior classes will stay in their pods.

Corridors

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will teach the children to keep to the left when on the stairs and in the corridors.

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, a SEN teacher will supervise the class. The class will not be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. If we cannot source a supervising teacher, 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.

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

- Only one person may be in the reception area at any one time, and they must wear masks. Please check the number of people in the reception area before entering.
- 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.
- No adult can enter the school building from the reception area, unless invited to do so.

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 have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Children who are generally unwell.

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 class will be notified.
- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age

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Illness and Absences

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 – please ensure all contact details are up to date and in use, and also provide the name and number of a contact who will be in a position to collect a child promptly.
- 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
- 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
- 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.
- 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.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.

Parents should seek advice from their GP/consultant if they think their child is in a high risk group. If they are advised not to attend, then the parents should furnish the school with a letter containing words to this effect. The school will then support the child with his/her learning.