

Plan for return to Scoil Dairbhre August 2020

Key facts for Parents:

COVID – 19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways and is caused by a new virus called the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets. To infect you, it has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). If you come into close contact with someone who is shedding the virus and who is coughing or sneezing or if you touch - with your hands - surfaces or objects that someone who has the virus has coughed or sneezed on, and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes without having washed your hands thoroughly you may contract the virus.

As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it, so it is important to keep up to date and make sure you are using the most up to date guidance available. This information is available from the following links:

- HSE-HPSC: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- HSE Hub: <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- Department of Health: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

COVID-19 can be a mild or severe illness. Severe illness is much more common in older people (especially older than 70) and in people vulnerable for other reasons. Severe illness is much less common in children and young adults in good health. (See below)

The most common symptoms of Covid 19 are:

- Cough - this can be any kind of cough, usually dry but not always
- Fever - high temperature over 38 degrees Celsius
- Shortness of Breath
- Breathing Difficulties
- Lack of smell.

Symptomatic people appear to be most infectious for other people in the early days after symptoms begin. Infection can also spread from people in the day or two before they get symptoms and it can spread from some people who get an infection but have no symptoms or such mild symptoms that they take little notice of them (asymptomatic spread). People are no longer infectious for other people 14 days after they have developed symptoms.

Best practice for Parents and Pupils:

In order to prevent the spread of the virus

- if you have been in contact with someone who is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms
- If you have coughed or sneezed
- if you were in contact with someone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing)
- if you have been on public transport,

- if you have been in a crowd (especially an indoor crowd)
- if you have handled animals or animal waste
- If you move from one room to another room or from inside to outside areas
- If you have physical contact with a child from another group other than their own group
- if your hands are dirty
- when you arrive and leave buildings including your home or anyone else's home
- After using the toilet
- Before having a cigarette or vaping before and after eating
- Before and after preparing food
- Before and after eating your own food – breaks/lunches
- After assisting a child to use the toilet or using the toilet themselves
- After contact with bodily fluids (runny nose, spit, vomit, blood, faeces)
- After cleaning tasks

You must - Wash your hands with soap and water (which is the best method to get rid of germs) and or use a hand sanitiser

You must -Practice good respiratory hygiene: that is, when coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

You must - Maintain social or physical distancing: that is, leave at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and other people where possible, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever.

Must not engage in handshaking or hugging

Must avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth – if you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself

Keep your hands in good condition. Moisturise them often. Any basic product that is not perfumed or coloured is OK.

The staff will complete multiple lessons on correct hygiene, lining up, the importance of hand sanitising , staying within their pods/bubbles etc. with the children during the first weeks back in school.

Role of Parents:

It is important that parents have a clear understanding of the benefits and risk of childcare and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in a childcare centre, school or in the home.

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.

Procedures

- Each class has a separate exit and entrance door.
- Each class has a separate toilet and sink.
- Cleaning and sanitising equipment is available in each room and in each bathroom.
- All teachers have completed Covid 19 Training supplied by DES.
- All teachers have completed a return to work form.
- The school has been deep cleaned.
- Cleaning hours have been increased.
- Rooms will be ventilated regularly.
- The day will include 1 X 15 minute Break and 1 X 30 minute Break.
- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be seated 1 metre distance apart.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms.
- Children will have a separate basket each containing writing materials, tissues and equipment needed for school work.
- Teachers will collect their pupils at their entry door each morning and accompany them to the school gate each day.

Timetables

Timetables remain the same. School will open at 9.10am. Class will start at 9.20am. Junior and Senior Infants will be accompanied by their teacher to their exit door at 2pm. 1st -6th class will be brought to the school gates at 3pm. Each class grouping will have a separate pathway to follow.

Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	
Junior and Senior Infants	Main Door with ramp No.1
First and Second Class	External classroom Door No.2
Third and Fourth Class	Wooden Door No. 4
Fifth and Sixth Class	External Classroom door No. 3

All Exit and Entry doors will be clearly labelled. A **QUEUE HERE** sign has been drawn at each entry door and there are markings to indicate where children should stand. Each class should line up at their designated point with social distancing observed

We ask for co-operation as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.

Parents must arrive on time for leaving in and collecting their child.

Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised are allowed to drop off and collect children.

Any parent who is in a high risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves. (This of course is at the discretion of the individual parent/carer/grandparent)

The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time. No child is to enter the school building unless their teacher allows them to do so.

No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.

Messages for teachers can be sent by email, class dojo or by phoning the school office.

Arrival at school

Children are to be dropped off as usual outside the school gate. Parents are reminded to park on the opposite side of the road, rear bumper to kerb **AT ALL DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES**. Parents may accompany children to the gate but are asked not to enter school grounds and to maintain social distancing guidelines **AT ALL TIMES**. Parents of Junior and Senior Infants may accompany their children to their line for the first few days.

End of School Day

Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait in their car and the class teacher will accompany children to the school exit gates. The class teacher will bring the children to their designated exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them.

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day it is preferable that the class teacher has prior knowledge of this. Please send in a note, or leave a message with the school secretary.

The following arrangements will apply

- When the adult arrives at the school, Please knock on your child's classroom window, then wait at their entrance/exit door.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.
- If a parent needs to drop in a forgotten item the same procedure will apply. Please keep interruptions to a minimum, ideally they should be avoided if at all possible.

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, if one is available. 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.
- 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
- 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 have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- 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) may suggest activities to support the child's learning at home and these will be shared with parents.

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

Personal Equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 3rd to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners etc. A Pritt stick, Packet of tissues and Twistables will be provided for each individual child and will be kept in school. Each child will be provided with a container to store these items in. Labelling these items is important.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd classes the school will provide a container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons etc. All of these will be labelled with their name. Boxes of tissues will be provided on each table.

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 or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

School Yard and Playtime

As we have lots of space in Scoil Dairbhre we have mapped out 7 zones. (Junior and Senior infants are 1 class as there are only 13 of them) Each class will be designated a zone on a rotating basis. Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and our SNA. The zones will be marked and children will be made aware of where they are to play.

Learning Support

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal.

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 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

While it is not envisaged that PPE will be worn by staff in general, staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks. Where a distance of 1metre is not possible or cannot be adhered to staff may feel it is appropriate to wear suitable PPE.

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 confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. If the Community Centre is being used by class groupings, common touch points will be cleaned at appropriate intervals.