

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh

Plan for Re-opening of the School

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make every 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 children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
- The day will include 1 x 20-minute break and 1 x 10-minute break for all children
- 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
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms
- Children will come to school with their hands washed. Sanitisation will occur on entry to the school, after each yard break and at 2.15pm before the children go home (1.20pm for the infant classes). Children will also wash their hands before they eat at 11am and 12.50pm.

Arrival at school

- The school gates will open at 8.35am. No children will be permitted to be on the grounds prior to this time. The gates will close at 8.25am for all staff and reopen for children at 8.35am.
- Junior and Senior infant children can only enter the grounds from the Allendale Ave gate (brothers of these pupils can also enter at this entry point). 1st and 2nd class pupils can enter the grounds from the Curraheen gate only (brothers can accompany each other) and 3rd to 6th class pupils can only enter by the Melbourne Road gate (again, brothers can accompany each other).
- At each of these entry points there will be a number of staff members from 8.35am. At the Allendale Avenue entrance, our Junior Infants will be escorted in groups of 10 to their classroom. On entry to the building, they will sanitise their hands using the hand sanitising station. This approach will be mirrored at the Curraheen Road gate. The boys from 3rd to 6th will enter the grounds from the Melbourne gate which will be supervised, but they will make their way independently to their classroom building. They will sanitise their hands on entry to their building. Unfortunately, parents or guardians cannot enter the school campus without prior approval from the school principal. We would ask that you would strictly adhere to this policy.

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- Messages for teachers can be sent by email directly to the teacher, or by phoning/emailing the school office.

End of School Day

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait in a socially distant manner outside the gate from which their son enters the school i.e. Allendale for Juniors and Senior Infants, Curraheen for 1st and 2nd and Melbourne Rd., for 3rd to 6th class.
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –
 - Junior and Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd classes –the class teacher and other staff members will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them
 - 3rd – 6th Class – the class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact, each pod will be supervised by a member of staff. If older siblings need to collect younger siblings, there will be a designated pick point for this to occur on the school grounds.

Collection of Children during the School Day

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

- Children can only be collected at two designated times during the day – 11am and 1pm since the school gates will close at 9am sharp.
- An email needs to be sent to the school office the previous evening indicating the reason for collection as well as the time i.e. 11am or 1pm (office@bishopstownboysschool.ie)
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should phone the school office to indicate that they are at the Allendale Ave gate.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- No adult should enter the school grounds, unless they have prior permission from the school principal

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

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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) suggested activities to support the child's learning at home 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

- The school uniform will be worn as normal; PE days will be notified on our return.
- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st to 6th 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.
- All children should bring a hand towel to school for the drying of hands after handwashing but paper towels will be provided.

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- Please ensure that children do not have jewellery or watches on their hands so as to facilitate proper hand washing.
- All coats will be hung individually at the back of children's seats, we cannot use the rails outside classrooms due to proximity of coats and the spread of germs due to contact.

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.

Yards

Each bubble of 16 classes will have access to the yards during their allotted break times as follows –

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Junior Infant Yard – | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| Senior Infant Yard - | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 1st Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 2 nd Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 3rd Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 4 th Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 5th Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |
| 6 th Class Yard- | Class A at 10.50, Class B at 11am, Class A at 12.40 and Class B at 1pm |

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within those bubbles.

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 within the confines of a bubble.

- 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

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.

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that a 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 member of the SEN team or the principal may act as a substitute. If a number of teachers are absent, difficulties may arise since it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In

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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.

Cleaning

The Board of Management currently employ contract cleaners to clean the school daily. We believe the cleanliness of our school to be extremely important and we have always operated to the very best standards in this regard. The Board will double the cleaning capacity and ensure that every desk in every classroom is wiped down daily and the school rigidly adheres to the cleaning guidelines as laid down in the Return to School guidelines issued by the Department of Education.

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.

Extra-curricular Activities

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities has been explored. Since it would not be recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time we have decided that there will be no extra circular activities before or after school until it is safe to do so.