**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(each classroom is considered a bubble)
* The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different break times and lunch times and each bubble have a designated area to play with specifically designated toys.
* Groups one consist of Junior and Senior Infants & Third and Fourth Class.
* Group two consists of First and Second Class & Fifth and Sixth Class
* There will be staggered collection times (2.45pm and 2.55pm), there is more information on staggered collections further on in this document and your family’s time will be sent via email.
* The day will include 1 x 10 minute break and 1 x 30 minute breaks
* Within each class from 3rd-6th , the children will be further divided into pods (groups of 4- 7 pupils), with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods but when playing outside they can play freely with their class bubble i.e Third and Fourth Class, Fifth and Sixth Class.
* Junior Infants-Second Class will sit in pods in their classrooms but are not required to maintain social distance as per the guidelines
* Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms

**Hand washing timetable:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **On entry in the morning** | Wash hands at sink |
| **Before small break** | Sanitize |
| **After small break** | Wash hands at sink |
| **Before lunch** | Sanitize |
| **After lunch** | Wash hands at sink |
| **Home time** | Sanitize |

**Key to Entrances & Exits**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Entrance and Exit Points** | **Number** |
| **Front left of school** | **1** |
| **Front right of school** | **2** |

**Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Teacher** | **Class** | **Entrance & Exit Point** |
| **Ms. Kelly** | **Junior and Senior Infants** | **2** |
| **Mrs. Hurley** | **First and Second Class** | **2** |
| **Mrs. McSweeney** | **Third and Fourth Class** | **1** |
| **Mr. O Driscoll** | **Fifth and Sixth Class** | **1** |

**Arrival at school**

* **School will open at 8.50 am. School starts at 9.10 am. Pupils may arrive between 8.50 and 9.10. Pupils must adhere to social distancing while walking up the paths and through the yard. They must enter the school at their designated entry point and go to their own classroom. After washing their hands pupils must remain seated until school starts.**
* **New Junior Infants can be dropped to school on the first day between 8.30am and 8.50am. This is to ensure that there will be a calm entry and a little bit of time for parents to settle children. Please enter the school from entry point 2.**
* We ask that parents/guardians move on promptly after ensuring their child has crossed the road safely so as to avoid large gatherings in the car park area.
* No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building without an appointment.
* Messages for teachers can be sent by email, or by phoning the school office.

**End of School Day**

* Junior and Senior Infants will be collected at 1.50pm in the usual manner. The teacher will bring pupils outside and parents/guardians are asked to enter the ramp from the right hand side (Danny Barry’s side) and exit from the left. While waiting for your child, please maintain social distance from others.
* There will be staggered collection times for First to Sixth Class.

Time A: 2.45pm and Time B: 2.55pm.

We will assign collection times by family rather than by class.

Families will be notified as to which collection time they have and we ask for your co-operation as much as is possible.

Pupils for time A will gather in the school yard at 2.45pm, they will line up at a designated area and remain with their own class bubble until an adult has arrived for them. They will then exit the yard and go down the ramp maintaining social distance from others. (Pupils can exit ramp at whichever side is closest to their car). Please guide your child across the road and leave the car park carefully.

The same procedure will operate for pupils at time B.

**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

* Where possible, inform the teacher by email or phone call prior to the collection (paper notes are discouraged).
* When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office 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
* No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

# 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 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
* 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 Learning for 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**

* 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 (that will stay at school) 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 or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

**Yards**

**Each Class bubble will have access to the yards during their allotted break times as follows:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Front Yard** | **Back Yard** |
| **Small Break 10.35-10.45** | **Junior and Senior Infants** | **Third and Fourth Class** |
| **Small Break 10.50-11.00** | **First and Second Class** | **Fifth and Sixth Class** |
| **Lunch**  **12.15-12.45** | **Junior and Senior Infants** | **Third and Fourth Class** |
| **Lunch**  **12.45-1.15** | **First and Second Class** | **Fifth and Sixth Class** |

Yards will be supervised by teachers, SNA and school secretary

**Special Education Teaching (SET)**

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

* 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**

Staff will wear masks or visors, 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, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. Where possible, the Special Education teacher will provide cover. In some 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 each class grouping.

**Extra-curricular Activities**

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. Further updates will be provided in September.