

# Scoil Bhríde, Ballydehob

Roll No 14225d

Covid-19 Response Plan



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**School Re-opening – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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# Introduction

## 1. Introduction

As a school community we have successfully navigated our way through what has been the most challenging time in the history of modern Irish education. As we look forward in excitement to re-opening our school on the 26<sup>th</sup> August we need to be aware that there will be challenges ahead.

Our school will operate under new norms. As a school community we will have to adapt quickly to new and revised practices and procedures many of which are detailed in this policy. The Health, Safety and Well-being of all members of our school community is of paramount importance to us all.

Procedures have been put in place in line with HSE and Department of Education and Skills advice and guidance and are **subject to change** as new advice or the changing needs of our school dictate. All members of the school community, irrespective of circumstance, are expected to adhere fully to the procedures put in place in an attempt to minimize the risk posed by Covid-19. It is critical that staff, pupils, parents and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements.

**It cannot be emphasised strongly enough that all members of the school community must adhere fully to the practices and procedures put in place to ensure all of our safety. Any instances of non-compliance will be brought to the attention of the Board of Management.**

Each and every individual must play their part. We all have an obligation to do what we can to ensure the safety of our school community. Breaches of procedure by any individual will not be tolerated. Covid-19 poses a risk to us all.

Miriam Burke  
Principal

# Introduction

## 2. Aims

**Through the implementation of the practices and procedures as outlined in this policy our school community aims to:**

- Do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into our school.
- Reduce the likelihood of the spread of Covid-19, insofar as possible, within our school if introduced.
- Detail for all members of our school community how our school will reopen for all students from the 26<sup>th</sup> of August and what the operation of our school will look like so as to be sustainable in a COVID-19 context.
- Balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning.

### 3. Unity

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there,  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:  
the tools she used  
were books and music and art;  
One was a parent  
With a guiding hand  
and gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had worked into the child  
Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed she would have failed if  
she had worked alone.  
For behind the parent stood the school, and  
behind the teacher stood the home!

**Never before has the home-school link  
needed to be stronger. We need to be  
supportive of each other in order to  
support the children in our care and we  
need to be united in promoting a safe and  
healthy environment for our school  
community.**



## 4. Covid-19 Policy Statement

Scoil Bhríde is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort from all members of the school community will help contain the spread of the virus.

### In Scoil Bhríde we will:

- continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff
- provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
- agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
- inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- provide instructions for staff and pupils to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
- implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions.

This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative, Bernadette Draper, who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners. The Deputy Lead Worker Representative is Emer Lehane.

**Signed Miriam Burke**

**Date: 20/08/2020**

## 5. Know the symptoms of Covid-19

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

- High temperature- 37.5 degrees Celsius and above
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

**Coronavirus COVID-19**

Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

**If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.**

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

**All people are advised to:**

- > **Reduce** social interactions
- > **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- > **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit [hse.ie](http://hse.ie) OR phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

**How to Prevent**

- Stop**  
shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people
- Distance**  
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell
- Wash**  
your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- Cover**  
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- Avoid**  
touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean**  
and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

**Symptoms**

- + Fever (High Temperature)
- + A Cough
- + Shortness of Breath
- + Breathing Difficulties

**For Daily Updates Visit**  
[www.gov.ie/health/covid-19](http://www.gov.ie/health/covid-19)  
[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

Ireland is operating a 'test and trace' strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice

**HSE** **Klutas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

## 6. Minimising the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into our school

As a school community we must do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into our school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread. The risk of spreading the infection once introduced exists in all interpersonal interactions; student-student, teacher-teacher and teacher-student and must be managed in all settings.

A range of essential control measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of the spread of the Covid-19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, pupils, parents and visitors, as far as possible, within the school environment. These control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis.

**It is critical that staff, pupils, parents and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all procedures and health and safety requirements.**

### Practices and procedures.

#### 6.1 Promoting awareness:

- *All members of our school community will actively promote* awareness of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Signage informing members of the school community of the symptoms of Covid-19 and the need for social distancing are displayed at all access points to school grounds.
- All members of the school community will embed in pupils the need for appropriate respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene. A lesson on this will be done at the start of the school year and children will be reminded regularly by the staff.
- Parents, pupils and staff will adhere to all procedures.

#### 6.2 Attendance at school:

- Members of the school community who display symptoms of Covid-19 **MUST NOT ATTEND or VISIT OUR SCHOOL** and should immediately phone their doctor and follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- Members of the school community **MUST NOT ATTEND OR VISIT OUR SCHOOL** if they have been identified by the HSE as a contact for person with COVID-19 and must follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- Staff and pupils that develop symptoms at school must promptly bring this fact to the attention of the Principal, Deputy Principal, as appropriate.
- Staff and pupils must know the protocol for managing a suspected case of COVID-19 in school as detailed in Section 8 of the DES Guidelines.
- Everyone entering the school building must perform hand hygiene using hand sanitiser provided at each entrance.
- If pupils are sick they **MUST NOT** present for school.

- **Visits** to the school by all persons other than staff and pupils will be **by appointment only**. Appointments must be arranged in advance through the school office, by phone 028 37161 or by e-mail at [contactscoilbhride@gmail.com](mailto:contactscoilbhride@gmail.com)
- Each visitor entering the school will be required to complete a Contract Tracing Log irrespective of the duration of the visit.
- Parents must drop and collect pupils from the designated entrances and not enter the school grounds.
- The only exceptions to this are:
  - In the case of Junior and Senior Infants, a parent/designated person can accompany pupils for **assembly in the yard** for the first 3 days. Parents/designated persons **MUST** practice physical distancing of 2m and wear face coverings.
- Physical distancing of 2m should be maintained between staff and all visitors to the school.
- Physical distancing of 2m should be maintained between all adults when on school grounds.
- Adults accompanying pupils to school as detailed above and visitors with pre-arranged appointment **MUST wear suitable face coverings**.

## 6.3 Respiratory Hygiene

All members of our school community **MUST** practise and actively promote good respiratory hygiene at home and at school as this will help protect people around us from viruses such as flu and Covid-19.

### Good respiratory hygiene entails:

- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Disposing of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin.
- Bins will be emptied at regular intervals.

## 6.4 Hand Hygiene

**All members of our school community MUST practise and actively promote effective hand hygiene at home and at school.**

- Staff and pupils must understand why hand hygiene is important as well as when and how to wash their hands.
- Hand sanitisers are installed, with appropriate signage, at each entry point, in each classroom and at appropriate locations throughout the school.
- Posters are displayed at each hand washing station throughout the school showing effective hand washing technique.

- HSE guidelines on handwashing are available at:  
<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>

All persons entering the school building must perform hand hygiene using hand sanitiser provided.

Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).

### Frequency of Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff MUST perform hand hygiene:

- On arrival at school;
- Before eating or drinking;
- After using the toilet;
- After playing outdoors;
- When their hands are physically dirty;
- When they cough or sneeze.

Please note : Warm water facilities have been installed to each classrooms bathroom sink.

## 6.5 Physical Distancing

**Maintaining physical distancing in the school environment is one of the key control measures to minimize the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19.**

Physical distancing will be usefully applied in our school allowing for some flexibility when needed. It will be applied in a practical way that recognises that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue. Physical distancing in our school will look different across the various ages and stages of learning.

Children from Junior Infants to 2nd Class are not required to physical distance. Children from 3rd-6th class are expected to keep a distance of 1m.Each classroom will be a 'Bubble' with each class group acting as a separate pod or group.

Contact between bubbles will be extremely limited while pods may interactwith each other where necessary.

It is recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from pupils and it is not appropriate that they would always be expected to do so where this could have a detrimental impact on the pupil i.e. if a child sustains an injury and requires first aid or a child is anxious and needs support.

However, where possible staff should maintain a minimum of 1m distance and where possible 2m. They should also take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level. Staff will wear suitable face coverings while at work. Visors will be worn at the top of the classroom when explicit teaching is taking place and if a teacher needs to move through the classroom they may also wear a mask. There is also a Perspex screen being installed at the teacher's desk area for added protection.

**All adult visitors to the school, as scheduled by appointment, MUST maintain a 2m distance from school staff and wear suitable face coverings.**



Our school community is committed to the two principles of physical distancing, namely, increasing separation and decreasing interaction, as a means of minimising the risk of the introduction of Covid-19 to our school.

## 6.5.1 An Increasing Separation

In order to minimise contact between pupils, insofar as possible, the school will operate based on three Bubbles for arrival, dismissal, movement through the school and break times. The bubbles are comprised as detailed hereafter.

Bubble1 1: Junior and Senior Infants and First Class- (Yellow)

Bubble 2: Second, Third and Fourth Class (Green)

Bubble 3: Fifth and Sixth Class (Blue)

### School Bubbles

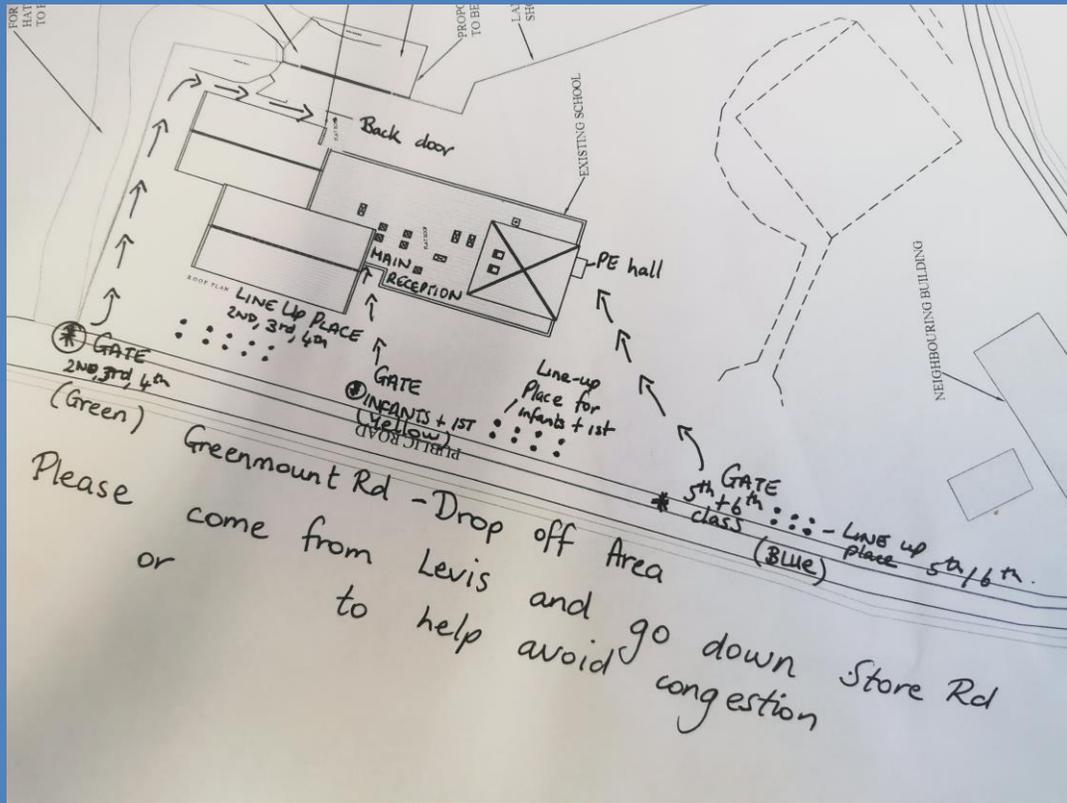
	<b>Bubble 1</b>	<b>Bubble 2</b>	<b>Bubble 3</b>	<b>Area</b>
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Blue</b>	<b>Reception/ Offices</b>
<b>Classes</b>	<b>Juniors/Seniors First class</b>	<b>Second/ Third/Fourth class</b>	<b>Fifth and Sixth class</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>No. of Pupils</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>No. of Staff contacting group</b>	<b>1 teacher 1 SNA 2SET</b>	<b>2teachers Jobshare 2SNAs 2SET</b>	<b>1Teacher 2SET</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Entry/Exit to the yard via</b>	<b>Main pedestrian entrance signed in yellow *****</b>	<b>New gate near proposed carpark *****</b>	<b>Large gate for vehicles left ajar *****</b>	<b>Reception Main Door</b>
<b>To the school via</b>	<b>Main Reception door</b>	<b>Back door near green wall</b>	<b>PE hall door</b>	

## Assembly and dismissal of pupils

### Coming to School

- We would ask that if you are coming by car a **one-way system** would operate via Greenmount Road and onto the Store Road when dropping and collecting. **ALL Traffic regardless of which direction you live will come via Levis' Corner and depart via the Store Rd and Chapel Lane.** The teachers will park at 'the Lookout' as much as possible and this will allow space for you to safely drop your child between **9.10am and 9.20am** making sure they go in the gate. Please continue on without delay.
- When pupils are dropped at the designated time they must proceed unaccompanied. An exception will be made for Junior and Senior infants for the first 3 days to allow parents into the yard.(Not the school building)
- For parents who do need to come to the gate please acknowledge the coloured markers on the path to guide the social distancing requirements (2m)
- We are going to let children play until 9.20am weather permitting in their designated yard space. No mixing of bubbles will be permitted.
- No pupil should be on school grounds before 9.10am and gates will be closed before this time.
- Below is a map of the designated entrances and exits for each class group
- It also shows where each class will line up. There is a coloured spot for each bubble where they can place their bags before going to play until the bell rings at 9.20am. When the bell rings they will gather their bag and stand on that spot. **PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL.**
- On a wet day there will be no playing before school and children will go directly to their classrooms unaccompanied using the correct entrance for their bubble. Their teacher will meet them at the door where they will sanitize. Leaving the school
- The children will be out promptly at 2.55pm for collection from their designated gates. Older children may walk down the avenue to meet their parent/carer with parental permission. Younger children to be collected at the gate while parents maintain social distancing 2m and move on promptly once the child has been collected.

## Assembly/Dismissal Routes



### **Parental responsibilities on assembly/dismissal:**

- Parents/guardians must arrive on time for dropping off 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 consider if they should drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves.
- Parents must not congregate in groups.
- Parents who are permitted on school grounds (Infants and pupils with additional needs) must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
- Parents who are permitted on school grounds (Infants and pupils with additional needs) must wear suitable face coverings.
- A drop and go or collect and go policy will be in place. Under no circumstances are parents to congregate on or outside school grounds.
- As much as possible the older children should meet their parents at their car. For parents who do need to come to the gate please acknowledge the coloured spots marking out social distancing requirements
- At arrival and departure times of children, social distancing is to be maintained by children and parents.
- Walking or cycling to and from school is encouraged to alleviate congestion where possible.
- Contact bus operators for further information on the School transport scheme.

### 6.5.1 Decreasing interaction

Due to the layout of and available space in our school we are fortunate to be in a position to decrease, insofar as possible, interaction between pupils in different Bubbles. In doing this we will adopt a common-sense approach while recognising the limits to which this can be achieved between pupils. Class Bubbles will have separate play areas. Class timetables will allow for extra time for children to eat their lunches as they will also have to sanitise before and after eating also. Movement breaks will take place regularly through the day. The allocation of yard space may be changed after sometime once all rules and procedures have been embedded.

#### Break Times/Movement breaks for Class Bubbles

Bubble	Bubble 1	Bubble 2	Bubble 3
Classes	Juniors/Seniors First class	Second Third/Fourth class	Fifth/Sixth class
Yard space	Lower yard- around the school building	2 <sup>nd</sup> class- yard near pre-school 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> class Old big yard	5 <sup>th</sup> class Basketball court 6 <sup>th</sup> class soccer area
No. of Pupils	22	28	19
Movement Break 1	10.00-10.05	10:55-10:20	10:30-10:35
<u>Break Eating Time</u>	10.55– 11.05	10.55-11.05	10.55 -11.05
Play Time	11:05 -11.15	11:05 -11.15	11.05– 11.15
Movement Break 2	11.50 -12:00	12:00- 12:10	12:20-12:30
Lunch Eating Time	1-1:10	1-1:10	1-1:10
Play Time	1:10-1:30pm	1:10-1:30pm	1:10-1:30pm
Movement Break 3	Junior and Senior Infants –N/A First class 2:10	2:20-2:30	2:30-2:40

The movement breaks times are more flexible on dry days but are designated slots on wet days for using the hall. This is subject to change.

## Classroom Layouts

### Bubble 1



### Bubble 2



### Bubble 3



## 7. A-Z of school practices and procedures

### 7.1 Books etc.

- Parents must ensure that all **copybooks/writing equipment** are sanitised before being placed in the child's schoolbag.
- **Parents must ensure that all of the child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot and will not be shared.**
- We are asking parents to ensure your child has a pencil case for home use and another one for school use. The pencil case used at home will not be brought to school and the pencil case used in school will not be brought home.
- For the start of the school year all books will remain in school.
- All shared books/resources will be wiped down or quarantined for at least 3 days. A library system may be introduced in time but again books will have to be wiped down and quarantined between use.

### 7.2 Communication

If you have concerns or questions, email the school and we will contact you.  
[contactscoilbhride@gmail.com](mailto:contactscoilbhride@gmail.com)

### 7.3 Classroom Layouts

Children are spaced out at a minimum of 1 metre apart in all the classrooms. Infants will be allowed to interact in their pods ( ie class ) for Aistear and playtime. Coloured bibs may be used particularly in the infant room to help the teacher to identify pods. These bibs will be washed after use. Each child has a box for his/her belongings. We are asking that where possible coats are rolled up in the bag with the lunchbox or put on the back of their chairs if this is not possible.

### 7.4 Face Coverings

- Staff members will wear face coverings, similar to those worn in shops or on public transport, when a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
- There is no requirement for pupils to wear face coverings.
- All adult visitors to school grounds and parents dropping children **MUST WEAR** suitable face coverings.

### 7.5 First Aid

On yard duty, First Aid will be carried out by the teacher on duty. They will have their own bumbag with supplies they will replenish including masks, gloves, antiseptic wipes and plasters. Icepacks will have covers which will be washed after each use.

### 7.6 Handshaking/Hugging

- While we will all be delighted to see each other again, hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

## **7.7 Home/School Communication**

- For the start of the school year communication between home and school will take place electronically using e mail and by phone/textparent. In time Seesaw our online platform will be used and we will keep the children in touch with using Seesaw in school.
- Face to face meetings will only be carried out in exceptional circumstances.

## **7.8 Homework:**

- Homework will not be assigned until later in September and children have settled back and are used to the changes. We would strongly encourage each pupil to read as extensively as possible during this time at home . Each class teacher will be in touch with parents via email to explain how homework will work for each class group though limited books/folder will be sent and it will be introduced gradually.

## 7.9 Hygiene and Cleaning

- Sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom and support room, and in offices.
- Emulsifying soap is available in all toilets.
- Children are not required to supply hand sanitizer .
- All children are encouraged to keep a packet of tissues in their box.
- Warm water is now available also for teachers and pupils.
- Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.
- In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned once per day.
- Books, toys and resources will be cleaned regularly or quarantined for 72 hours before being reused.
- Frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities will be cleaned on a rotational basis during the school day by Melissa Draper our secretary/cleaner for the year.
- All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.
- Waste will be collected regularly from offices and other areas within the school.
- Staff must take responsibility for cleaning their own equipment and utensils (cup, cutlery, plate etc.)
- Staff must bring their own water bottle/thermos where possible
- Washing of all cloths, towels, bibs, ice pack covers etc will take place daily with the installation of a new washing machine.

## 7.10 ICT

- A timetable will be drawn up for the use of common devices. Extra devices are being purchased. Devices must be cleaned after use and before they are returned for charging.

## 7.11 Inability to attend school due to Covid-19

- Pupils who are unable to attend school on medical grounds, due to Covid-19, must provide the school with a letter/report from their GP/Consultant stating that they cannot attend on health grounds.
- In the absence of medical certification of non-attendance the school is obliged by law to implement the terms of The Education Welfare Act and inform TUSLA as normal.

## 7.12 Lunches

- Parents must ensure that all **lunch boxes/water bottles** are washed thoroughly each day in warm water before being placed in the child's schoolbag.
- **Parents MUST ensure that pupils have sufficient lunch/drink coming to school each morning as we will not be in a position to accept and distribute lunches during the school day.**
- Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

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- **Please make sure your child is self-sufficient ie. they can open/peel any lunch/drink you pack for them. Please pay particular attention to any drinks that require a straw.**
  - Please make sure they have enough drinks to last them throughout the day as we will not be in a position to refill drinks bottles.

- Children will eat their lunches at their desks. No food will be allowed onto the yard.
- All leftovers/waste must be stored in each pupil's lunchbox and must be disposed of at home.

### 7.13 Office

- We request that parents would do online bank transfers as much as possible to minimise the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Book bills will be going out in the first week. The swimming money owed from last term will be deducted from this bill.
- Attendance at school office is by pre-arranged appointment only.
- Pupils will not have access to the office.
- As far as possible, staff members should minimise their entry to the office area.

### 7.14 Photocopying/ phone

- Any staff member who uses the photocopier or phone must clean it down after use with the wipes provided.

### 7.15 Physical Education and P.E. Equipment

- Physical Education lessons will take place outside when the weather allows. Teachers will organise lessons that require very little if any equipment. Staff members and pupils will be encouraged to take additional breaks outside during the school day. While these breaks are taking place all windows in the classroom should be opened to allow for ventilation. All PE equipment if used must be sanitized or quarantined for 72 hours after use.

### 7.16 Punctuality

- **It is essential that parents/pupils adhere strictly to the times allocated for assembly and dismissal. The doors will be locked at 9.20am with class starting at this stage.** It will be most disruptive as pupils who present late for school must contact the school office by buzzer to arrange entry to the school. Pupils remain the responsibility of the parents/guardians until they have arranged access to the school.

### 7.17 Returning from abroad

- Children /staff who have travelled from countries not on the Green List must not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period which commences on the date of return to Ireland.

### 7.18 Staff

PPE will be provided for all staff. Visors will be provided for staff and this is then their personal responsibility. Masks will be purchased for use in First Aid and staff can wear their own masks/face coverings as they feel appropriate. All Staff will have to fill in a pre-return to work questionnaire" and will have to sign in daily. Induction training must be completed by all staff

### 7.19 Staffroom

All staff members must maintain a physical distance of 2 metres when they are not engaged in teaching e.g. when they are using the staff room and arriving to work.

- 
- Staff meetings for the most part will be held in a large area where social distancing can be maintained
  - Staffroom is reduced to 3 at a time at the table. Staff members should bring their own cups, bottles, cutlery, etc. to school and avoid sharing utensils in the staffroom as far as possible.

- Staff members should bring any waste/leftovers home.

### **7.20 Substitute Teachers and SNAs**

- The sequence for covering all teacher absences will be in accordance with DES circular 0045/2020.
- Special Education Teachers may be required to cover for mainstream teachers in the case where they are absent and a substitute teacher is not available. This may mean that your child may have reduced support at times, but the school will do our best to avoid this happening.
- A copy of the Covid-19 Return to School Policy will be provided to each substitute teacher/SNA. Substitutes will be required to complete a Return to the Workplace form before they enter a classroom and will be asked to confirm that they have engaged in the online Induction training.

### **7.21 Symptoms**

- **Please refer to HSE guidelines stated above.**

We would ask that staff check their temperature and that parents check their child's temperature before coming to school each day. If it is 37.5 degrees celsius or above they cannot come to school.

The staff may use their knowledge of a child in identifying a new and unexplained cough.

Fitness to return to school after displaying Covid-19 symptoms should be certified by a G.P. even if a Covid 19 test was not required.

### **7.22 Teaching and Learning**

- As a school, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning, and we recognise the challenges that Home Learning presented for all families.
- Each child will be in a different place in relation to his/her learning, and we wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2020/2021 school year.
- The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for schools, as we work with all the children during the return to school. Initially there will be a focus on Language, Numeracy, SPHE and PE. As advised by the National Educational Psychological Services we will need to **“Slow down to catch up”**.

### **7.23 Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants**

- Staff members (particularly Support Teachers and SNAs) may rotate between areas/classes but must be mindful of their interactions and need to sanitise between interactions of various bubbles.
- In keeping with our Special Education policy, 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.

- 
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean by the SET in between different pupils or small groups attending.

## 7.24 Uniforms

- **Uniforms are to be worn Tuesday and Thursday.**
- **PE tracksuits are to be worn Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**
- There is no guidance or advice to say that school uniforms or tracksuits should be washed every day and this is not practical for most families. However children's uniforms must be clean and washed regularly( as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols)
- As a school we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniforms **only for school related activities.** Uniforms or tracksuits should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day and aired. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops, during after-school activities, etc.

## 7.25 Ventilation

- To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible, and will be opened out wide while children are taking breaks in the playground.

## 7.26 Very high risk members of the school community

**Pupils and staff at high risk may not be able to return to school. These pupils will receive appropriate support to engage with learning. Ongoing connection with school community will be ensured.**

*The list of people in very high risk groups includes people who:*

- are over 70 years of age – even if fit and well
- have had an organ transplant
- are undergoing active chemotherapy for cancer
- are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
- have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
- are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors.
- have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs.
- have severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe COPD
- have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)
- have a serious heart condition and are pregnant.

**Please contact the principal if any of these pertain to you as a staff member or your child as exceptional arrangements can be made in these circumstances.**

### **7.27 Visiting Teachers/Coaches**

- The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. However, it is not recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time. We may be able to facilitate outdoor activities but will not be mixing bubbles for the foreseeable future.

### **7.28 Wellbeing of the School Community**

We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all our pupils and staff.

These are promoting:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-worth
- A sense of hope

Our usual practice is to provide support to pupils based on the Continuum of Support. This is a tiered system that provides Whole School and Classroom Support for all pupils, additional School Support for some pupils, and School Support plus extra targeted intervention for a few pupils with complex needs.

- The Stay Safe programme will be taught in all classes at the start of the school year.
- Increased emphasis will be placed in all classes on SPHE / PE and outdoor activities.

### 7.28 Working remotely

The school will work towards having a contingency plan for working remotely. A blend of bookwork and online activities will be decided upon in the event we are forced to close.

## 8. Illness and Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

**We love to see all of our children at school every day. However, under the current circumstances, if children are sick they must not be sent to school.**

- Parents/guardians must keep children at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms. <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>
- Staff must not attend school if they display any symptoms.
- The office beside the school hall area is the designated isolation area/sick bay.
- If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the following procedure will be implemented:
  - The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation area. A distance of 2 metres will be maintained. The person accompanying the child must wear a face covering.
  - If a pupil has a suspected case, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. Parents must make sure that their contact details are kept up to date at all times. If we are unable to contact a parent/guardian it will be considered a serious breach of Health and Safety. Therefore please make sure contact details are up to date.
  - Staff members who are symptomatic should immediately inform the Principal/Deputy Principal and go to the isolation area/sick bay.
  - A face covering will be provided to the staff member/child who is symptomatic.
  - The staff member or child who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.
  - If the staff member/child is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible.
  - Anyone who is symptomatic is advised to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to travel home.
  - If the staff member/child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
  - The isolation area and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned in line with the guidelines.
  - 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 and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.

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- It is important to remember that any of us can get sick or unwell, and if we do, we need the understanding and support from those around us. It is essential that anyone who feels unwell makes that known to the Principal/Deputy Principal as soon as possible.

**This policy was unanimously sanctioned by the Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde on 20 / 08/ 2020. However it is a working document and is subject to change as the need arises or public health advice changes.**

**Signed: Maura O' Brien  
Chairperson**

**Date: 19/08/2020**

## Support for Parents for Return to School

### Help with Starting The Conversation

[https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing\\_your\\_child\\_for\\_the\\_return\\_to\\_school.jpg](https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing_your_child_for_the_return_to_school.jpg)

### Tips for Returning to School Video (8mins)

<https://nipinthebud.org/information-films/tips-for-returning-to-school/>

### Tips for Returning to School Factsheet

<https://nipinthebud.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Supporting-Children-Returning-to-School-After-the-Lockdown.pdf>

### Mentally Healthy Schools UK: Return to School Toolkit:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2077/coronavirus-toolkit-return-to-school.pdf>

### **Beacon House UK. Tips for Parents to Help Child Return to School:**

<https://beaconschoolsupport.co.uk/newsletters/parents-how-to-help-your-child-return-to-school-successfully>

### **Help With Sleep Routines**

<https://www.sleepfoundation.org/articles/plan-ahead-start-back-school-bedtime-routines-now>

Autism NI Northern Ireland's Autism Charity <https://www.autismni.org/resources> has many packs freely available such as:

### Return to School Pack:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cf788f054106a000185c13a/t/5f0839cd0268093cb32816c6/1594374636880/Going+back+to+school+resource+kit+PDE.pdf>

### Letting Go & Future Plans Activity

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDEs/Resilience%20Activities/Letting%20Go%20and%20Future%20plans.pdf>

### Going Back to School Activity Sheet

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDEs/Resilience%20Activities/Going%20back%20to%20school.pdf>

## **General Support Websites & Helplines for Parents**

**Department of Education Website Support for Parents:**

<https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/guide-for-parents-supporting-children.pdf>

**Gov.ie Website dedicated to Supporting people during Covid-19 – Section ‘In This Together’  
Coping at Home During Covid-19**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/606da7-coping-at-home-during-covid-19/>

**List of Support Services**

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/news/supports-and-services-during-covid-19.html#young-people>

**NCSE Parent Resources**

<https://ncse.ie/parent-resources>

**Department of Children and Youth Affairs Support for Parents:**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/parents-centre/>

**Psychological Society of Ireland Support for Wellbeing**

<https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/footer/COVID19-Resources>

**Parenting Tips**

<https://www.covid19parenting.com/englishtips>

**Understanding and Coping with Reactions to a Pandemic:**

[https://medicine.vale.edu/childstudy/communitypartnerships/cvtp/Understanding%20%26%20Coping%20with%20Reactions%20in%20a%20Pandemic\\_386176\\_284\\_28977\\_v1.pdf](https://medicine.vale.edu/childstudy/communitypartnerships/cvtp/Understanding%20%26%20Coping%20with%20Reactions%20in%20a%20Pandemic_386176_284_28977_v1.pdf)

Cover your cough and sneeze poster

