



Parents' Information, COVID-19 Response Plan

Introduction

This appendix to our response plan is aimed at helping parents, guardians and families to prepare for our return to school. We are all very excited to be returning, but it is important that it is done in a safe way and that we are all fully prepared to return. All of what we do is in line with the advice of our Public Health Experts. The school team has carried out a full risk assessment and have put the following measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus in our school.

If you are having trouble understanding any aspect of this, please ask someone for help with translating or contact the school by phone or email.

What kind of measures are being put in place to keep the school community safe in light of Covid 19?

There are a number of things being put in place to help prevent spread of Covid 19 and to help in the return to school:

Hygiene

- Hand sanitisers and additional handwashing equipment being installed
- Pedal bins
- Each room will be cleaned each day
- Additional cleaning hours
- Frequent washing of hands
- Promotion and monitoring of good coughing etiquette
- Materials will not be shared where possible
- Shared equipment will be regularly cleaned and quarantined
- Appropriate PPE for staff

Physical Distancing

- Classes will not mix – they will stay in their own 'Bubble'
- Children within classrooms will sit in groups known as 'Pods' (Pods will be seated a minimum distance from each other)
- Physical distancing will be encouraged (Though not a prerequisite in junior classes and the ASD classes)
- Physical distancing of 1m will be enforced at senior level
- Teachers and staff will wear face coverings when a distance of 2m cannot be maintained
- Start, finish and break times will be staggered and the yards will be divided (mixing of classes will not happen)
- Parents will be asked to maintain a distance of 2m on campus and to wear face coverings **at all times**
- A one way system on our campus
- A 'walk on the left' rule in our school will apply

Additional measures

- Emphasis will be placed on the health and wellbeing aspects of the child as they return (SPHE curriculum) as well as the core subjects of Maths, Literacy and Irish
- Social stories and videos to be sent home to show the children
- Children with additional needs will be contacted and eased back to school
- Staggered breaks and structured yards will continue to be a feature.
- Cleaning of resources and toys will continue to be emphasised