



The list of questions and answers below will be updated and posted on our website.
(Updated for use from 25th August 2021)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ☐ What happens if my child has symptoms of Covid 19 before school?
2. ☐ What happens if I need to collect my child during the day?
3. ☐ What happen if my child displays symptoms of Covid 19 at school?
4. ☐ What is being done to help the children settled back to school?
5. ☐ I'm afraid my child has fallen behind. What can be done?
6. ☐ We have just arrived back from a different country, can my child come to school?
7. ☐ What can I do for my child before they start school?
8. ☐ Will there be after school clubs happening in September?
9. ☐ I'm unsure if my child should attend school. What children should not attend?
10. ☐ What happens if my child cannot attend for one or more of the reasons above?
11. ☐ We thought Seesaw was a great way for our children to learn. Will this continue?
12. ☐ Can I come into the school building?
13. ☐ Should my child bring any sanitising equipment to school?
14. ☐ In what instances may my child not be able to return?
15. ☐ Should my child wear their uniform?
16. ☐ What happens if my child's teacher is absent?
17. ☐ What will the cleaning procedures in the school be?
18. ☐ Have the staff had additional training?
19. ☐ The staggered times are resulting in my children arriving at different times, how can I manage this?
20. ☐ Will staff be required to wear masks?
21. ☐ Will children be required to wear masks?
22. ☐ Do parents have to wear face masks?
23. ☐ We have just returned from a trip abroad, can my child come back to school?
24. ☐ My child is not in a 'Pod' with children they usually play with, can they mix with other children?
25. ☐ My child's best friend is in the other class, will they see each other?
26. ☐ Can parents walk onto campus to collect / drop off?

27. What will happen if guidelines are not being followed in school?

28.____How is the ETB / Department of Education monitoring the school and the Covid19 systems in place to ensure risk of infection remains low to none?

29.____My child has been told to self-isolate for 14 days and will not be able to attend school during that time. How will he/she continue learning?

1. What happens if my child has symptoms of Covid 19 before school?

Please do not send your child to school. Contact your GP for further advice and keep the school updated. It may be confusing to parents in cases of common cold, but we need to err on the side of caution and contact the GP.

2. What happens if I need to collect my child during the day?

You will need to contact the teacher and Karen in the office **prior to arriving. Please provide the time that you will be there to collect your child.**

Come to Karen at reception, she will call your child to the office.

You will need to sign your child out, providing details of the early collection to us.

Please note toilets will not be available to parents

3. What happens if my child displays symptoms of Covid 19 at school?

- You will be contacted immediately
- Your child will be accompanied by an adult to a safe area in the school to allow for distancing.
- Your child may be given a mask while moving to this area.
- An assessment will be made as to whether your child can immediately be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate your child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and can assist families by calling their GP.
- Tissues and sanitiser will be made available to your child as they wait.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that your child may be presenting with Covid-19.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The HSE (Not the school) 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 by the school. If there are suspected cases of Covid 19 in a class, the school will not be disclosing this information to protect the privacy of the person involved. The HSE will advise on actions to take.

4. What is being done to help the children settle back to school?

We will be sending out some information ahead of time regarding your child's teacher.

We have also develop social stories and virtual tours which will be available on the parent's section of our school website.

Some students may need to visit the school in advance of starting. Teachers will be in contact with these children.

6. We have just arrived back from a different country, can my child come to school?

Please follow all government guidelines in relation to travel. We may call you to check details surrounding travel.

6. What can I do for my child before they start school?

We will be sending out a separate sheet detailing some of the things that you can do to help your child before they start school.

8. Will there be after school clubs happening in September?

We have decided that afterschool clubs will not restart in September until we have developed a plan for that. Our priority at the moment is to reopen the school day first and will review the starting of after-school clubs in late September. After-school and extracurricular activities are very important and we need to be sure everyone is safe doing such activities.

9. I'm unsure if my child should attend school. What children should not attend?

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 displaying symptoms of Covid-19

Please contact the school if your child falls into any of the above categories.

10. What happens if my child cannot attend for one or more of the reasons above?

Your child's teachers will be in contact with you regarding work to be completed. However, if your child is ill, they should also work on returning to full health. We will deal with these instances on a case by case basis.

11. We thought Seesaw was a great way for our children to learn. Will this continue?

Seesaw offered a great way to reach children at a distance. We hope to continue using it as a teaching tool in school and occasionally for homework. Should the schools need to close again in the future, we will be using Seesaw, Zoom or similar platform to continue learning.

We would suggest that you consider investing in a tablet, laptop or PC for your child over the next few months in case it is needed again. We will be asking families to register with the Seesaw app in the first few weeks.

12. Can I come into the school building?

Access will be limited. If you do need to visit the office, please follow the signs guiding visitors. The glass between yourself and the office will remain closed. You should sanitise your hands before and after entering the reception area. Only one person is permitted in this area at any one time. If someone is speaking with a staff member in the office, you must wait outside as indicated. **Please note, toilets will not be available.** Payments must be made through MIT preferably or by card over the phone.

13. Should my child bring any sanitising equipment to school?

We will provide many hand sanitising stations around the school. Our school also has the benefit of warm water in our taps. Sanitising gel can be toxic when ingested and is not recommended for young children to have independent use of. However, it is optional to have their own bottle of sanitiser and you know your child best. We are also suggesting that children bring their own hand towel in a plastic zip lock bag for drying hands. It is more sanitary and also reduces the amount of non-recyclable waste in the bins.

14. In what instances may my child not be able to return?

If there are further announcements made to close the school by government. However, if your child also has a medical issue, which is considered 'High Risk', your child may not be able to return to school. You should consult your child's doctor/consultant for advice. If you are keeping your child out for these reasons, you will provide the school with a note from your child's doctor.

15. Should my child wear their uniform?

There was no indication given by the department that uniforms should not be worn. Yes your child will be wearing uniform. We would recommend that the school uniform be washed regularly (at the weekend and when P.E uniform is being worn). Your child's teacher will contact you regarding P.E days.

16. What happens if my child's teacher is absent?

If your child's teacher is absent, a substitute teacher will be employed. **There will be no instances this year where classes will be split between other classrooms.**

17. What will the cleaning procedures in the school be?

Our cleaning allocations have increased. The main focus of cleaning throughout the day will be on frequently touched areas. The aim is that each classroom will be cleaned each day. There will be frequent quality checks and review of procedures with our maintenance staff.

18. Have the staff had additional training?

Yes, all staff are required to complete training before resuming work. This is a requirement of DDLETB and the Department of Education.

The wellbeing of our staff is of paramount importance and we will be carefully monitoring and supporting staff as they return to work.

19. The staggered times are resulting in my children arriving at different times, how can I manage this?

We understand that it is not ideal for some families but it is a necessary step to avoid large crowds of people on campus. This is being done to ensure lots of people are not around our school at the same time. Older children can be encouraged to come by themselves, if possible which allows for the dropping off of younger pupils. As with all policy, this will remain under constant review. We would advise the following:

8.45 – Single child families from group A/families with children all in group A arrive

8.55 – 9.00 Families arrive with children in different groups

9.00 – 9.05 Single child families from Group B/ families with children all in Group B

20. Will staff be required to wear masks?

Overall, the measures of hygiene and social distancing where possible will be used. Staff will be required to wear masks or visors when they need to come into closer contact with children (Less than 2m) There will be instances where staff may be wearing a mask or a visor. These include:

- First Aid

- Intimate care and toileting

- Small group work

- Learning support

- Individual conferencing

21. Will children be required to wear masks?

No, children under the age of 13 are not advised by health officials to wear face masks.

22. Do parents have to wear face masks?

When on the campus, we ask that parents and adults wear face coverings **even if fully vaccinated** e.g when queuing to greet your child after school. If a parent has to enter the school building, the wearing of a face covering will be mandatory.

23. My child is not in a 'Pod' with children they usually play with, can they mix with other children?

Your child's teacher will try to accommodate children in the same pod who get along.

Children will be encouraged to stay with their own pod outside of class but once a distance

is kept on the yard, it is ok to play/chat with other children too. On occasion, and especially after a midterm break, the pods may change.

25. My child's best friend is in the other class, will they see each other?

Unfortunately, we will need to keep classes physically apart for now during the school day. However, we are a school that values collaborative work and will be thinking creatively about how we can use technology and other means to bring children together from different classes.

26. Can parents walk onto campus to collect / drop off?

Yes, parents can walk onto the campus. **Please note there will be a one way system.** There will be an expectation that adults will model good behaviour by distancing themselves from others and following the directions on the campus. Parents are advised to spend the least amount of time possible on the school grounds.

To avoid large gathered crowds, we have implemented the staggered times and separate doors. Parents should not congregate, please use the yellow queuing system.

27. What will happen if guidelines are not being followed in school?

We are aware that this is new to everyone and we will be encouraging to everyone to following the guidelines. However, where there are deliberate breaches of our Covid Response Policy, we will be addressing that as a Health and Safety issue and will refer to our Code of Behaviour.

28. How is the ETB / Department of Education monitoring the school and the Covid19 systems in place to ensure risk of infection remains low to none?

Each school has an ETB appointed Lead Worker Representative who works with management to monitor the implementation of plans. We have two such representatives who will help in the monitoring of this plan.

29. My child has been told to self-isolate for 14 days and will not be able to attend school during that time. How will he/she continue learning?

Our plan is that your child's learning will continue on Seesaw and through other computer based learning. The teacher will be able to monitor most of the work which is being completed through these means.