



## Plan for Re-opening of the School

### Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make every effort necessary 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 ensure the school can exercise that duty of care to the best of its ability.
- Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, children should return to full-time schooling i.e. full school days, 5 days a week. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.
- It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the cooperation 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. Class groups will operate as ‘bubbles’. Due to the age range of the pupils, there will be no requirements for physical distancing within bubbles and ‘pods’ will not be necessary.
- All classes will have the same break and lunch time and children will play in the their class designated area.
- The day will include 2 breaks - 10 minutes outside at 10:10am and 20 minutes outside at 12:10pm
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms

Timetable
8.40 – School start 10.00 – Break time 10.20 – Class resumes 12.00 – Lunchtime 12.30 – Class resumes 1.20 – Junior and Senior Infant classes finish 2:20 - First and Second Classes finish

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Infant Entrance Lobby	1
Senior Infant Class Door	2
Junior Infant Class Door	3
1st & 2nd Class Lobby	4
1st & 2nd Class Door	5
SET Room Door	6
Admin Block Door	7



## Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance Point	Exit Point
Niamh	Jun Inf	1	3
James	Sen Inf	1	3
Mary	1st, 2nd	4	5
Noreen	SET	4	6

In order to facilitate as much social distancing as possible, we are asking parents to say goodbye to their children at the school gate in the morning. The gate will open at 8:35 and children will go to their class lines. A member of staff will be there to receive the children and supervise their transition to the classrooms.

**Please note that parking for parents is at the front of the Amenities Centre, the management of Leixlip Amenities Centre will not permit parents to park in the spaces to the side of the centre.**

- We ask for co-operation with these new arrangements in order to minimise contact between parents
- Parents should not congregate inside or outside the school grounds
- Within the school grounds - Strict physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained amongst adults of different households. All parents and visitors on the school grounds must wear masks.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, or by phoning the school office.
- For late arrivals and early finishers, parents must sign their children in / out via email

### End of School Day

- The school gate will be opened at approximately 1:18 and adults, who are collecting their children from the infant classes, may wait in the school yard, ensuring that 2m social distance is maintained. The children will line up inside the classroom and the class teachers will bring their classes out and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. The above procedure will be repeated at 2:18 for first and second class.

### 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.

- Parents will call the school mobile or email the school to inform them of the changed arrangements.
- Parents will be emailed a Google Form and will sign their children out electronically via this form.



- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the school mobile 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 or by prior arrangement with the 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 procedures will be implemented:

Symptoms include - Temperature, • A fever (high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above) • A

new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties

• Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste differently to normal • Fatigue • Headache • Sore throat

• Diarrhoea • Feeling sick or vomiting • runny or stuffy nose

- 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, parents will be asked to 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 –

- If they are displaying Symptoms • Temperature, • A fever (high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above) • A new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss or change in your of sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste differently to normal • Fatigue • Headache • Sore throat • Diarrhoea • Feeling sick or vomiting • runny or stuffy nose
- Children who have been given temperature reducing medication that morning e.g. Calpol, Neurofen or any medication containing Paracetamol or Ibuprofen
- 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 must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell
- Parents must complete a Return to Education form for their child after any absence.

## **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 Special Education Teacher in conjunction with the class teacher will provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home.

## **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

- Public health advice will be sought and followed
- The HSE will then follow up with close contacts of the child

## **Personal Equipment**

- In so far as is possible, all equipment and resources will be provided in school and should not be brought in from home - the school will provide a container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- Disposable paper towels will be provided for hand-drying
- All children should have a spare set of clothes which should be left in school at all times, except when a change is needed. Every item of clothing should be clearly labeled.
- All children should have appropriate rain gear and wellies for school use only. These should be left in school for outdoor play.
- The only items pupils should bring in from home are their lunchboxes and drinking containers.



### **Shared Equipment.**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including 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.

Where possible shared toys and books will be used on a rotational basis e.g. particular items used on a Monday / Tuesday etc.

### **Yards**

Classes will share the yard at lunch and break time and will play within their own class groups. The yard will be supervised by a teacher and one/ two ANA, depending on timetable.

### **Special Education Teacher**

In keeping with our Special Education policy, special education teaching will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal.

- Where the SET is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another. All staff must wear a mask or face covering in line with current guidelines.
- The tables and chairs in the SET room will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

### **PPE**

Masks and visors will be provided for staff by the Board of Management. Where physical distancing of 2 metres is not possible, staff must wear a mask or face covering in line with current guidelines. Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks and visors where appropriate. Coveralls have also been provided by the Board of Management.

### **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 accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may be possible for the SET to provide cover. If no substitute cover is available resulting in a class being without a teacher, 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 all shared equipment will be cleaned after use.

### **Aistear**

Where possible, Aistear playtime should take place outdoors. Equipment will be cleaned after use by each class group.

### **Outdoor Classroom and Learning**

All classes will be timetabled to be in the outdoor classroom or in an appropriate outdoor learning environment (walks, Leixlip United football field / astro cages etc) for 50 minutes to one hour per day, weather permitting.