

Plan for Re-opening of the School

Scoil Aodán Naofa Carnew

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make efforts 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. Every effort will be made to mitigate against the spread of Covid 19 but there is no guarantee in any plan for doing so.
- 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. The plan is subject to change according to public health advice.
- There is no room for complacency in the fight against Covid 19 and we do not want a return to schools being closed. The Board of Management has included in the school's Code of Behaviour that non compliance with the new procedures listed in this plan will result in the child being subject to the steps outlined in the Code of Behaviour. Blatant acts of dangerous behaviour such as spitting, striking others fighting or refusing to stay within a designated group or area in the yard will result in suspension from school. I am sure that everyone understands by now that this is for the common good.

In Preparation For Reopening:

- Scoil Aodán Naofa has used the Department of Education Guidelines, "Roadmap For The Reopening Of Schools" as it's guiding document in preparing this plan.
- Classrooms have been prepared for social distancing requirements. Additional furniture has been ordered to facilitate this. Classrooms have been decluttered to increase the space for children to work in.
- A one metre distance will be left between "Pods" or groups in classrooms and where possible, between children in those Pods. This is in accordance with Dept of Education requirements in their Roadmap For Reopening Schools.
- The Board of Management has arranged for a doubling of the cleaning provision at the school to adhere to the cleaning needs arising from the threat of Covid 19.
- The Board has invested in new cleaning tools such as steamers and foggers to help keep toys and resources free from possible infection.
- New timetables and schedules have been arranged to keep classes from mingling and to keep the minimum physical contact between children. Yard will be arranged so that each class will have it's own zone.
- Staff will be obliged to undergo specific training provided by the Dept of Education and must sign a return to work declaration that they are safe to return to work.

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General

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
- The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different starting times and finishing times. Groups are arranged alphabetically, 1) A-K (Kelly) and 2) K (Kenny) – Z. Daily schedule will be 9 am – 2.30pm for Group One and 9.10am – 2.40pm for Group Two.

- The day will include 1 x 10 minute break and 1 x 30 minute break. These will be staggered with:

Junior Infants – 2nd class breaks at 10.30 – 10.40 and 12 – 12.30,

3rd Class – 6th class breaks at 10.50 – 11.00 and 12.30 – 1.00.

In addition, a 5 minute “walk” break will be held, weather permitting, at 1.45pm for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class and at 2pm for 4th, 5th and 6th class. This is to ventilate the classrooms and to allow the children to get some fresh air.

- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms

Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point
Ms. O Connell	Jun Inf	Yellow Line Route Point 4
Ms. Ms Byrne	Sen Inf	Yellow Line Route Point 4
Ms. Scallan	1st Class	Front Door, Red Line Point 1
Ms. Dunne	2nd Class	Front Door Red Line Point 1
Ms. C Doyle	3rd Class	Hall Side Door White Line Point 3
Ms. J Doyle	4th Class	Hall Side Door White Line Point 3
Ms. Bass	5th Class	Front Door, Red Line Point 1
Ms. Gregan	6th Class	Classroom Side Door Point 2
Ms. Collier	ASD Room	Front Door, Red Line Point 1

Arrival at school

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- Each group should aim to arrive at the school **during** the scheduled time for each group : Group One between 9 – 9.10am and Group Two between 9.10 – 9.20am. The period from 9 am – 9.30 am is regarded as assembly time. Formal lessons begin from 9.30 am.
- **Please note that the school doors will not be open before 9.00am**
- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.
 - A member of staff will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
 - **No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.**
 - Messages for teachers can be sent by email, class Seesaw or by phoning the school office at 0539426315.
 - Late arrivals after 9.30am **MUST** come in via the front door and report to secretary's office. Children are not to be dropped at the classroom door as was previously the case.
 - Temperature checks will not be used on arrival to school each morning.

End of School Day

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait in their cars or outside the school gate. In the case of Junior and Senior Infants parents can collect the children at the side yard area of the school as before, taking care to social distance and avoid congregating – aim to collect and leave school grounds as soon as possible.
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –
 - Jun Infants- 2nd Class: the class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them.
 - 3rd – 6th Class : the class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.

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

- 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
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so
- Please make every effort to ensure that your child has their lunch coming to school in the mornings so that we can avoid unnecessary drop offs during the day.

Please Note.

Children entering / leaving from the back gate entrance (Via Valley Heights) to / from the school may enter /exit the building as before from the yard through the school hall and on to their classrooms.

“Walk On Right”

Please let the children know that we will operate a “walk on right hand side” policy in the school building. This might be a good teaching opportunity to check their knowledge of right/left hand side!

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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:

- The class teacher or SNA will inform the school principal or deputy principal immediately.
 - Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
 - The staff member attending to the child will make every effort to calm and reassure the child. The staff member must wear full PPE equipment at this point to protect themselves.
 - 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, if one is available. 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.
 - If a child has been sent home with suspected Covid 19, they must be medically passed fit to return to school. The school must receive written confirmation of this. This is for the protection of all others in the school community

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

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- 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 the Learning of 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) will suggest activities to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents. Seesaw is our current remote learning platform.

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 and parents informed accordingly.

Personal Equipment

- It is requested that children from 1st to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name.
- The school has tried to source a plastic box for each child but this has proven to be problematic. We suggest therefore that each child brings their schoolbag to school on the first day and leaves the bag in school. As there is no homework for the first few weeks, each child only has to bring their lunchbox to and from school every day.
- Each classroom will have it's own supply of PE equipment. Children are not to bring their own football/basketball from home

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. We have also invested in a fogging machine which sanitises each room in around 15 minutes.

Yards

There will be a maximum of 4 classes on the yard at each break and this will be organised according to the staggered breaktimes noted above in this plan. Each class will have a dedicated area of the yard to play in and the school has both Dry Day and Wet Day Plans in place. These will be shared with the children on their return to school.

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within those bubbles. Principal & Deputy Principal will be on hand and support the supervision roster.

Learning Support

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In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of a bubble.

- 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

Current public health advice states that it is not appropriate or necessary for children u13 to wear face coverings in school. However, the school will not be asking children to remove a face covering if it is a parent's wish that they wear one. Please talk to the school in advance if you have any concerns.

The current HSE advice is that school staff must wear face shields at all times and masks if in close proximity to a child. Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves, gowns and face masks.

It would be a good idea to let your children know this before they return to school so that they are prepared to see teacher looking “different”!

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that 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 now appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In this case the learning support teacher for that class may be asked to take up mainstream teaching duties for that day. The Dept of Education has assured us that SET hours lost on that day may be banked and used in future when a substitute teacher is available. In circumstances where more than one teacher is absent and shortfalls of staff cannot be overcome 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 class groupings. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points should be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day. GAA skills sessions will return in September, but with shorter sessions because equipment will be sanitised between each class session.

Daily Hygiene Schedule (To be followed by all classes) :

Sanitise- Before eating at little break ; Before eating at lunch break ; before leaving school.

Washing – On arrival to the classroom in the morning ; After play in the yard ; After eating lunch ; after being to the toilet ; If contact is made accidentally with property of others.

School Assemblies.

Whole school assemblies are suspended for the moment. Awards etc will be presented in the classrooms.

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Swimming Lessons.

Swimming lessons are suspended for this year both for hygiene reasons and due to the closure of the pool in Courtown.

Choral Work / Whole Class Singing.

Because of the increased risk of spreading Covid 19 in a group/confined space by singing or loudly projecting the voice, class/group singing is suspended for the moment.

Extra-curricular Activities

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities has been explored. However, it would not be recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time. The staggered finishing times will also make the scheduling of after-school activities problematic. Further updates will be provided in September.

Uniform.

Uniform is still to be worn. Frequent washing is advised by public health agencies. A common sense approach will be adopted by school when the uniform is "in the wash".

Remember!

If you have returned recently from holidaying abroad, you must allow a period of 14 days after you returned home before you can attend school.

Finally....

This plan is a work in progress and may change when advice is received from relevant agencies. We will let everyone know if/when this happens. If you have any worries or concerns please contact us at carnewns@gmail.com or 0539426315. We are looking forward to seeing our children in school again. It has been too long! Let's work together to make this a successful return. I would like to thank all the members of the school Covid Response Team for their help in recent weeks and the teachers and staff for their work behind the scenes. Also, thank you to our Board of Management for their support and for meeting frequently throughout the summer to oversee progress. Big thanks to Jimmy Kearney and Joanne Edwards for their patience and trojan work at the school in recent months.