



Scoil Náisiúnta  
Baile Átha Cliath 7  
Ag Foghlaim le Chéile

Dublin 7 Educate Together  
National School

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# **Covid-19 Response Plan for re-opening school**



## Plan for Re-opening of D7ETNS

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## **Underlying Principles**

- The school has a responsibility to make effort 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.
- 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.

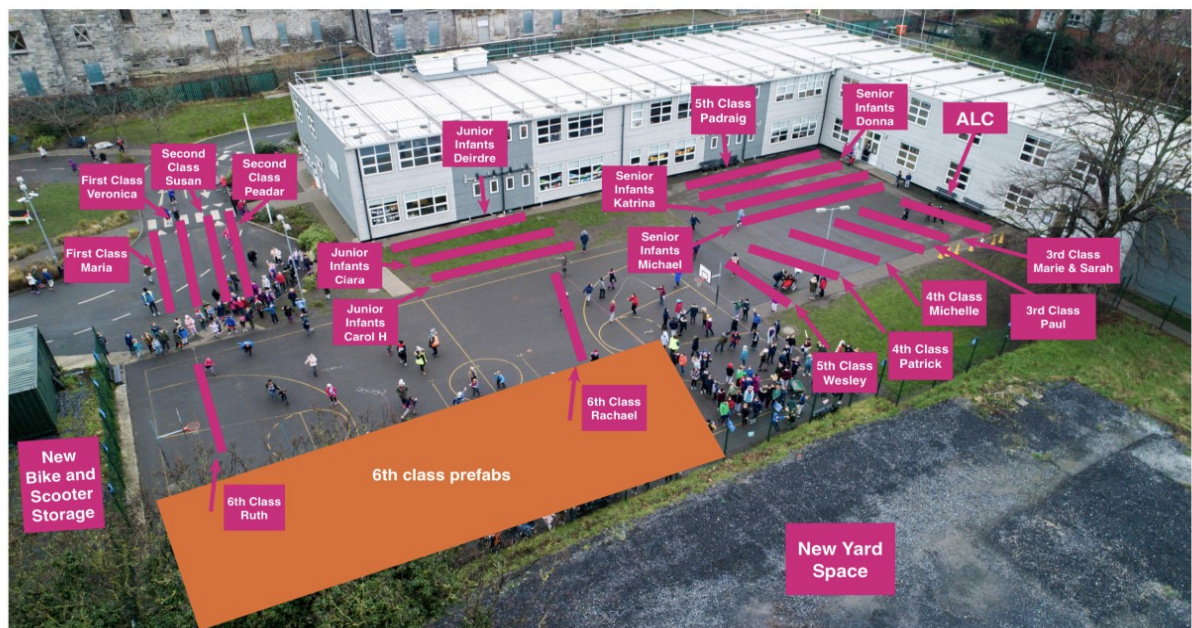
## **Hygiene provisions**

- Battery operated Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all classrooms, support rooms, staff toilets, offices, and staff room.
- Pump hand sanitiser in every room.
- Disposable disinfectant wipes available in every classroom
- Dettol spray available for wooden equipment that cannot be immersed in water.
- Disinfectant spray in each classroom.
- Door stoppers for classroom doors, two outside toilet doors and fire doors on corridors to minimise touching of door handles
- Children will be asked to wash their hands upon entry to school, after using the bathroom, before eating, upon returning from yard and after sneezing or coughing if their hands are used.
- Children will bring their own hand towel to school

## **Arrival at school**

- To help with reducing the amount of traffic around the school gates, children are asked to walk or cycle to school if it is at all possible.
- Children should arrive at school between 8.20 and 8.30 am at the latest.
- We are implementing a drop and go system. One parent, wearing a face covering should drop their child to the line and immediately leave.
- Teachers will be supervising the lines.
- Separate provision will be communicated to Junior Infant Parents for the settling in period.
- Each child must walk straight to their designated class line, with social distancing being observed.
- The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- Children who arrive after their class has been brought in by their teacher should proceed directly to the door assigned to their class and make their way directly to their classroom before joining their pod.
- A diagram illustrating your child's line position and designated door is attached.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Exceptions will be made for the parents of students with additional needs.
- SNAs will meet their respective class at their line with the class teacher.
- Children will sanitise their hands as they enter the classroom
- Children must only bring their lunch, a drink, tissues hand towel and hand sanitiser (1st-6th class) if desired in their school bag. No decorative pieces should be attached to school bags.
- Parents should send in their child's colours and sharpener that catch the parings with their child on the first day.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, or by phoning the school office.
- Meeting with teachers are as important to your child's learning as ever before and we will make these arrangements with you on a case by case basis. Some of the options include, phone meetings, zoom meetings,
- We ask for your co-operation with all these measures.

Class	Entrance
Junior Infants	Red Door (Front Entrance)
Senior Infants and Padraig's 5th	Green Door (Opposite Donna's Room)
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Orange Door (Front stairs beside Lost Property)
ALC, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and Wesley's 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yellow Door (Beside ALC)
6th	Blue Door (Line up at own prefabs)



## **End of School Day**

Junior and Senior Infant will finish school at 1.10pm and will be collected from their teacher at the front of the building.

1st and 2nd Class will finish at 2pm and should be collected from their morning line location.

3rd-6th Class will finish at 2.10pm and will be collected from their morning line location or can leave the school independently with permission.

We ask that you maintain 2m social distance from other adults when collecting your children and face coverings must be worn.

Children and adults must disperse as quickly as possible.

## **Break Times**

The DES guidelines state that the risk of transmission from contact with outside surfaces or play areas is low. However, pupils will remain in their class bubbles during breaktimes.

The break times have been broken down into two slots to facilitate bubbles not mixing on yard.

## **Changes to Classroom and School Layout**

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

As per the departmental guidelines the implementation of physical distancing will look different across the various ages and stages of learning.

We are keen to ensure that classrooms still feel like the fun, safe learning environments that we have always promoted in D7ETNS

The children and their teachers will work in Class Bubbles. A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day. From 3rd-6th, class bubbles will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom. These will be rotated.

## **Learning Support**

Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants Staff members particularly SETs and SNAs can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible. When rotation occurs, agreed sanitising routines will be observed.

## **Social Distancing**

### **Junior Infants to Second Class**

It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors so there is no requirement for children from Junior Infants to Second Class to maintain a physical distance within their Class Bubble.

### **Third Class to Sixth Class**

Children from Third Class to Sixth Class will be arranged in Pods within their Class Bubbles.. As far as possible, each Pod will be at least 1 metre distance from the next Pod..

## **Corridors**

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will observe the practice of keeping to the left when on the corridors.

### **Additional Measures to Limit Interactions**

Children will not be sent on errands to other classrooms, the secretary's office or the staffroom. While we will all be delighted to see each other again, hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

### **Doors and Windows**

All classroom doors will remain open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces.

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

### **Toilets**

All classes have toilets in their room.

Children will use their individual towels for drying their hands which should be changed on a daily basis to ensure responsible hand hygiene is being practiced at all times.

### **Lunches and Eating**

Parents/Guardians must make sure that children bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day. Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

**Pupils will practice hand hygiene before eating.**

Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice. Desks will be clear when eating.

Please ensure that children can independently open all items in their lunchbox. E.g. A child can peel their own orange.

Please do not send yoghurt tubes.

Pupils must bring home all their own waste.

### **Stationery**

Stationery (aside from colours and sharpeners) will be provided by your child's teacher and kept in individual pouches in school. Please do not bring in any pencil cases, pens etc from home.

### **School Office**

An online payment system has been set up to minimise the handling of cash and to reduce on appointments to the school office.

### **Electronics**

All electronics will be cleaned between uses.



### **After-School Activities**

No school based after school activities will take place until further notice.

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

Each class will be given a bag of PE equipment that that will be changed throughout the year.

### **Teaching and Learning**

As a staff, 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 at a different place in relation to their 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 us, and we ask you to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school.

Emphasis for all children will be on Wellbeing, PE, Language and Maths.

### **Homework**

No homework will be given for the month of September to allow us all to settle back into school.

### **Supporting the Learning of Children who Cannot Attend School**

If a child is not able to attend school for a prolonged, the class teacher (and/or the Special Education Teacher, where relevant) will provide work to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents/guardians.

Please ensure we have up to date email addresses for parents/guardians. These can be amended on Aladdin. This will be especially important if the school, or parts of the school have to close due to HSE advice.

## **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-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope

## **Face Coverings**

Staff members who cannot maintain social distancing of 2m will wear face coverings.

## **Gloves**

Staff members will wear disposable gloves when they are looking after a pupil's intimate care needs or administering First Aid.

## **Hygiene and Cleaning**

Sanitiser dispensers will be installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom.

Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When hands are physically dirty (wash with soap and water)
- When they cough or sneeze

Warm water and soap is available at each sink in the toilets, staff toilets and staff room.

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 at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces.

### **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 gate of the school to alert the office that they have arrived

### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe, and, in some cases, can be fatal. It can take anything from 2 days up to 14 days for symptoms of coronavirus to appear. They can be similar to the symptoms of cold and flu.

#### **Common symptoms of coronavirus include:**

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Be mindful that some people infected with the virus, so called asymptomatic cases, have experienced no symptoms at all.

## 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:

- 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, if one is available. He 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
- 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 -

- Children displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- 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 are living with a person who is displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms
- 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 generally unwell

### **Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class**

In the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the school, the HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with the 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.

### **Teacher or SNA Absence and Substitution**

If a teacher/SNA is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher/SNA for the class/pupil. If a substitute teacher/SNA is not available, it is not appropriate for the class/pupil to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. A single special education teacher will teach that class for the day. In such circumstances where there are insufficient substitute teachers available it may not be possible for the class/pupil to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

**Visitors**

Visitors during the school day will be by prior arrangement, will be received inside the main entrance and will be subject to the same controls that apply to staff.

A contact tracing log will be maintained.

