



**Scoil Náisiúnta  
Baile Átha Cliath 7  
Ag Foghlaim le Chéile**

**Dublin 7 Educate Together  
National School**

# **Covid-19 response plan for D7ET**

## **August 2021**





### **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

### **Arrival at school**

- Children should arrive at school between 8.20am and 8.30am 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 leave.
- Staff 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Collection from school**

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

1<sup>st</sup> -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.

### **Breaktimes**

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.

### **Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants**

Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants Staff members particularly SETs and SNAs can rotate between areas/classes, but this will be minimised 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.

### **Doors and Windows**

To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows and doors will be left open will be and will be opened while children are taking breaks in the playground and, where practical, during teaching and learning time..

### **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.

### **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.

### **After-School Activities**

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

### **PE & Shared Equipment**

Children will sanitise hands before and after using any shared equipment.

### **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**

It is a requirement for face coverings to be worn by staff members where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from other staff, parents, essential visitors or pupils. In certain situations the use of clear visors may be considered, for example staff interacting with pupils with hearing difficulties or learning difficulties.

### **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.

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

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms of coronavirus (which includes the DELTA variant). Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- a fever (high temperature - 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 different to normal
- Fatigue
- Aches and Pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:

- sore throat
- headaches
- runny or stuffy noses
- feeling sick or vomiting
- diarrhoea

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 up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu

### **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 Parents/guardians will be contacted.

For further information on when children need to isolate, see [Isolation Quick Guide](#) (HSE document).

### **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.