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Plan for reopening

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make every 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. **Please be patient with us as we endeavour to ensure the safety of everyone involved.**

Please be aware that this is an initial draft and this document will be a working document. Changes will be required on an ongoing basis. When changes are made to the document, it will be communicated via email. Staff and parents will be obliged to keep themselves informed on the contents of this document as well as government and HSE guidelines.

General Information

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
- Staff interaction with children will be limited as much as possible
- **Gates will open at 8.20am each morning to admit children.** We ask that children avoid congregating in the yard. No children should wait at the door until the doors open. Cars are to line up and children to walk immediately to class. Children are not to gather in groups.

A parent / guardian may accompany an Infant child to the classroom door for the first month and must leave promptly using the one way system in place. Parents must wear masks indoors.

- Children will be asked to enter their classroom in the morning, sanitise or wash their hands and take their seat. Parents are asked that their children give their hands a thorough hand wash last thing before they leave home.
- Children in the junior classes (Naíonáin Bheaga – Rang a 2) will operate in "class bubbles" and these whole class bubbles will be kept separate from other bubbles (classes) to minimise the risk of infection as much as possible. These children will be further divided into pods. It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors.
- Within each class bubble from Rang a 3 – Rang a 6, a minimum distance of 1 metre will be maintained between students where possible, but only where possible, the 1 metre distance between children within each pod may be kept.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms
- Warm water is available in all toilet areas for handwashing.
- All classrooms will have windows open for as long as is possible but at a minimum for two periods of at least 15 minutes per day to improve ventilation and minimise risk.
- Please ensure your child has all equipment necessary each morning.
- Should you need to speak to a teacher, please email the teacher and a time will be arranged for the teacher to make contact. Face to face meetings with parents will not take place, unless in exceptional circumstances and with prior approval from the principal.
- Staff will wear masks and/or visors.
- **Children are not requested to wear masks, however, should parents feel that it is necessary, disposable masks or plain coloured masks should be used and changed daily**.
- School bags need to be emptied and washed regularly.

Entry and Exit Points

Children are asked to observe social distancing guidelines as they enter and exit the school.

Arrival at School

School will start at 8.30am. Gates will open at 8.20.

- Teachers will be supervising in the classrooms from 8.20am-8:30am.
- Children must go directly to their assigned entry point to enter the building.
- Children must come in and go straight to their classrooms. There should be no hanging around in the halls.
- There will be no gathering on school premises at any time.

- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school premises with the exception of infant parents for the first few weeks.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email only. Each teacher will provide an email address.

End of School Day

The following arrangements will apply at the end of the school day

Naíonáin Bheaga (Junior infants) will finish at 11am the first week and 1.10pm from Monday 6th September.
Naíonain Mhóra (Senior Infants) will finish at 1.10pm
Rang 1-6 with siblings in these classes finish at 2.10pm
All other children finish at 2.10pm

- We request that children be collected on time as we are not permitted to hold onto children as the next class grouping will need to exit.
- The class teachers will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.
- Children are asked to sanitise their hands before leaving the building.

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

- Please inform the office that you will be collecting your child early (via email or phone)
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should come to the front gate and press the buzzer. The secretary will let them in.
- The school secretary will keep an account of comings and goings for contact tracing.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

Children with special needs

The special education team will make direct contact with parents of children with special needs to ensure that they can be comfortably re settled in school.

Homework

Assigned homework is to be uploaded to Seesaw for correction. Children will keep homework copies and books at home. School copies and books will remain at school. During class, children will class correct under the guidance of the class teachers as far as possible. At certain times teachers will collect copies from individual pods to correct following all correct hand hygiene guidelines.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

Please see the HSE website for information
https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html

If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures which will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately on the numbers provided. Please provide us with at least 3 contacts (preferably 2 parents and one back up person). If the secretary cannot contact the parent/guardian then the backup person listed by the parent will be contacted. (Please ensure the details you provided us with are up to date and if you have changed numbers/back up contact, let the office know by email)
- 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 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 if needed.
- 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.
- Parents will be advised to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms.
- 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. Should a second child become ill on the same day, the same isolation unit will not be used prior to cleaning. The teacher will organise to have the child isolated within their own classroom/in a separate designated area keeping a 2 metre distance from all other pupils and from the teacher and a mask will be provided while awaiting pick up by parents.

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:

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

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 generally unwell
- Children who have had an episode of vomiting or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours (as per HSE guidelines: https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting.html)

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, suggested activities to support the child's learning at home will be shared with parents by the class teacher and a member of the SEN team, where appropriate.

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.

Personal Equipment

- It is requested that all children will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, erasers, 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.
- Under no circumstances will children be allowed to share drinks. Unidentified/unclaimed drinks bottles will be disposed of. Please send reusable drinks bottles (no single use bottles allowed) There is filtered water in every classroom.
- Please ensure your child has an adequate lunch and drink each day. If your child has forgotten lunch please contact the secretary 091-521840.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including laptops, lego, readers/books and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant

classrooms. Laptops will be wiped clean after use by the teacher before being used by another child. Children will be asked to sanitise their hands prior to using shared books.

Cleaning of all shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection. Toys in the Seomraí Naíonáin will be cleaned regularly in line with the guidelines provided in the response plan.

Break time
The yards will be split into sections or zones for each class to stay in their zone.

Yards will be supervised by all members of staff working within bubbles as far as possible.

PPE
Teachers / SNA's will wear masks/visors. Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks and/or face visors. Good hand hygiene will be observed where teachers need to help an infant with laces/coat etc. It would be helpful to practice putting coats on/off and tying of laces with your children in the coming days as much as possible.

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 appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may be necessary for a member of the Special Education team to supervise the class on that day. This will avoid the necessity for class groups to remain at home if their teacher becomes ill and a substitute cannot be found.

PE
Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and any equipment used will be wiped down by the teacher after use.

Assemblies:
Whole school assemblies will not take place under current circumstances. Príomhoide Bríd will visit the classes to make any announcements or communicate with children, while observing social distancing guidelines.

Communication with parents
A lot of our communication will take place via the Aladdin connect app –
We will also email from time to time so please ensure that we have your correct email address.

Money Collections

All collection of money will now be done online to avoid the risk associated with the handling of money. Other fees arts/craft, book rental & insurance must also be paid online. Please let Róisín know by email – runaiscoilfhursa@gmail.com when you lodge money or if you have difficulty lodging to the school account.
Scoil Fhursa Bank Details **IBAN: IE30 AIBK 9374 0114 0920 25**
Many thanks for your continued support.

After school activities
We are awaiting guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills and hope to resume after school activities when it is safe to do so.