**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.

**Covid Lead Worker: Adrienne**

**Deputy Covid Lead Worker: Múinteoir Laoise**

**Control Measures**

A range of essential control measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, pupils, parents/guardians and

visitors as far as possible within Gaelscoil de hÍde.

These control measures are outlined in this document.

The control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis.

It is critical that staff, pupils, parents/guardians and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control

measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements.

Staff, in particular, should note that they have a legal obligation under Section 13 of the Safety,

Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to comply with health and safety requirements and to take

reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and other parties within

the workplace.

The following control measures have been put in place:

* All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
* The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different break times and lunch times.
* Group A = Naíonáin bheaga agus mhóra/ Rang 4/ Rang 5

Group B = Rang 3/ Rang 1/2/ Rang 6

* The day will include 2 breaks. Sos(10 minutes) Lón (30 minutes)
* 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 and exit points and in all classrooms and support rooms

**Timetables**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Timetable for Group A** | **Timetable for Group B** |
| **9:00 – School start**  **10.20 – Break time**  **10.30 – Class resumes**  **11:45 – Lunch time**  **12.15 – Class resumes**  **1.40 – Infant classes finish**  **2.40 – 1st – 6th Classes finish** | **9.00 – School start**  **10.40 – Break time**  **10.50 – Class resumes**  **12.30 – Lunch time**  **1.00 – Class resumes**  **1.40 – Infant classes finish**  **2.40 – 1st – 6th Classes finish** |

**Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rang** | **Entrance & Exit Point** |
| **Naíonáin bheaga** | **Front door of their classroom** |
| **Naíonáin mhóra** | **Front door of their classroom** |
| **Rang 1/2** | **Front door of their classroom** |
| **Rang 3** | **Main front door of school** |
| **Rang 4** | **Door at back of school at the top of fire escape stairs** |
| **Rang 5** | **Door of their classroom** |
| **Rang 6** | **Main front door of the school** |

**Arrival at school**

* All children should aim to arrive at the school in the period 8:45 – 9 a.m
* Each class should proceed to their classroom and remain seated in their designated seat until class starts.
* Parents should not enter school grounds
* No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
* Messages for teachers can be sent by email to the teachers’ email or by phoning the school office… 083/0267090

Teachers’ emails :

Principal email:

School email:

**End of School Day**

When the school day is over the following arrangements will apply :

* Infants to be collected from front door of classroom from 1:30 – 1:40 p.m. (12 noon naíonáin bheaga until Monday 7/9/’20)
* Saoirse (Classroom Assistant working in Naíonáin bheaga classroom) will take Naíonáin bheaga to Greenfields and Adrienne will take naíonáin mhóra to Greenfields. Those waiting for the bus will remain in their own classroom with their class teacher.
* All other children will leave school during the period 2:30 – 2:40 p.m.
* Rang 1/ 2 will exit from 2:30 p.m. Rang 3/4 will exit from 2:35 p.m. Rang 5/6 will exit at 2:40 p.m.
* Múinteoir Éanna will bring children from Rang 1/2 to Greenfields at 2:30 p.m. and children from Rang 3 to Greenfields at 2:40 p.m.
* Adrienne will bring children from Rang 4 to Greenfields at 2:30 p.m. and children from Rang 5 at 2:40p.m
* In general parents are asked not to enter school grounds.

Rang 1/2 will start exiting from 2:30 p.m.

Rang 3/4 will exit from 2:35 p.m.

Rang 5/6 will exit from 2:40 p.m.

**Access to the school building /contact log**

Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents/guardians will be restricted to

essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal.

Visitors will ring the mobile number on the door when they arrive.

A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities will be maintained. The school will maintain a log of staff and students contacts.

**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 phone the mobile number on display on the front door.
* 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

# 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 are the procedures that 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
* 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.

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
* 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.

**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

**Cleaning**

There will be daily thorough cleaning of areas and surfaces within the school

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will maintain cleanliness of their own work area.

Staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.

There will be regular collection of used waste disposal bags from offices and other areas within the

school facility.

Staff must use and cleantheir own equipment and utensils (cup, cutlery, plate etc.).

**Wearing of Gloves:**

The use of disposable gloves in the school setting by pupils or staff is not appropriate. It does not

protect the wearer and may expose others to risk from contaminated gloves. Routine use of

disposable gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.**Shared Equipment**

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

**Signage**

Signage is displayed throughout the school outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and

supporting good hand and respiratory hygiene. There is floor signage throughout the school reminding the children/staff of social distancing and the one -way system.

**Staff**

All staff have completed Induction training and have filled in the return to work form.

**Learning Support**

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**

While it is not envisaged that PPE will be worn by staff in general, staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks.

**Staff Duties**

Staff have a statutory obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of

their colleagues and other parties. In order to facilitate a safe return to work, these duties include,

but are not limited to, the following:

**i**. Adhere to the School Covid-19 Response Plan and the control measures outlined. The

cooperation and assistance of all staff is essential to reduce the risk of spread of Covid-19 and to

protect health and safety as far as possible within the school. All staff have a key role to play.

**ii**. Coordinate and work with their colleagues to ensure that physical distancing is maintained.

**iii**. Make themselves aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 and monitor their own wellbeing.

**iv**. Self-isolate at home and contact their GP promptly for further advice if they display any

symptoms of Covid-19.

**v.** Not return or attend school if they have symptoms of Covid-19 under any circumstances.

**vi**. If they develop any symptoms of Covid-19 whilst within the school facility, they should adhere to

the procedure outlined above.

**vii.** Complete the RTW form before they return to work.

**viii**. Must inform the Principal if there are any other circumstances relating to Covid-19, not included

in the form, which may need to be disclosed to facilitate their safe return to the workplace.

**ix**. Must complete Covid-19 Induction Training and any other training required prior to their return to

school.

**x.** Must be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices.

**xi**. Keep informed of the updated advice of the public health authorities and comply with same