

Templederry NS COVID-19

Return to School Action Plan 2021/2022

(To be read in conjunction with COVID 19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of Primary and Special Schools - Templederry N.S.)



Section 1 General

<p>Drop-off</p>	<p>Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds/buildings unless an appointment has been made and only then if wearing a face mask. Meetings should be kept to phone calls if at all possible.</p> <p>On entry to school children will go to their assigned areas which will be made known to them on return to school. Please note children are not supervised on school grounds prior to 8:45 in the mornings. Please do not leave children unattended on school grounds.</p>	<p>Exception for infants on the first morning - see note below.</p> <p>Pupils must stay in their designated areas in the morning upon arrival and line up when the bell rings. No child is permitted to go behind the school in the mornings.</p>
<p>General Drop-Off</p>	<p>If dropping off lunches/ books, please place in plastic box outside each classroom door and label if necessary, for your child's attention. These will be attended regularly throughout the day so there is no need to inform anybody of the drop-off</p>	<p>On late drop/off of child directly to school door please don't enter the classroom.</p> <p>Please request an appointment by phone should you need to speak with your child's teacher.</p>
<p>Infant Drop-Off</p>	<p>Children will be grouped in pods (for ease as opposed to social distancing) and will be walked out to the gate by the teacher. Infants will finish at 12 noon for the 1st couple of weeks in September. Junior Infants will begin on Thursday 26th and Senior Infants will join the on Friday the 27th.</p>	<p>To facilitate new Junior Infants on the first morning children will be given a time slot which will allow them and their parents to come into the school with their child.</p> <p>Parents will be asked to complete the contact tracing forms in the Infant classroom on the first morning.</p>

School Entry/one-way systems	Visitors to the school must report to the new door (purple entrance) and ring the doorbell to await entry. If for some reason you must come to the school, we ask that you wear a mask when entering the building.	A one-way entrance and exit system will be in place around some of the classrooms to avoid congregations during transitions in and out of school building. The linking corridors will also have a 2-way system to aid the safe flow of people around the school.
Break times/lunchtimes	Break times and lunch times will return to 11:00 – 11:15 for small break and 12:30 to 1:00 for lunch The school will have a timed electric bell to ensure all break times are adhered to.	Children will play in new designated areas according to their class bubbles. Children will line up in their assigned area to come back in after breaks and in the mornings. Children will remain in their designated play areas during break time and 2 staff members will be on yard during breaks for supervision.
Assemblies/Visitors	School Assemblies are suspended indefinitely. The school hall is still being used as a classroom to facilitate social distancing.	Visitors are asked to fill in the logbook inside the main door on departure and observe

		<p>correct hand hygiene/face mask requirements for the duration of their visit. We thank you for your co-operation in helping us make our school as safe an environment as possible for all.</p>
<p>Arrival Procedures Hand Hygiene</p>	<p>It is our aim to avoid congregations on school grounds or outside the gate therefore children from the bus are asked to enter the school in a smart manner and go to their designated class bubble area. On wet days class bubbles will go to their classroom and sit in their pods. There is hand gel outside each external door and on entry into the classroom. Every effort has been taken to ensure this is suitable for the children's hands.</p>	<p>Children must practise hand hygiene (washing or sanitising) on entering the school, before eating or drinking, after using the bathroom, after playing outdoors, when they cough or sneeze. When their hands are physically dirty they must be washed rather than sanitised. We ask that the gates and areas around the gates are kept clear to allow children enter the school grounds freely.</p>
<p>Wet Day Procedures</p>	<p>On wet mornings children can go straight into the classroom, complete hand hygiene procedures and sit in their pods.</p>	<p>On wet days where children cannot get outside for break children will remain in their classroom pods and can complete classroom-based activities or watch a DVD. Children cannot move from their class pods on these occasions. If weather clears on a wet day then an effort will be made to provide children in some play time outside.</p>

Section 2 Classrooms

Social distancing	Each class grouping is referred to as a class bubble within which children are organised into pods. Pods will be created based on the criteria mentioned earlier. Social Distancing of 1 m will be maintained in the older classes.	1m social distancing will be maintained within classroom seating arrangements. This requirement has not been made for the younger classes however they may still be organised into unofficial pods to assist with all the different arrangements.
Cleaning	There will be a daily clean of all areas - door handles, tables, chairs, sinks and toilets etc. This is laid out in our school general cleaning guidelines according to Department recommendations.	School has automatic taps at sinks in bathrooms and classrooms meaning children don't have to place their hands on any taps. Pedal bins in classrooms are foot operated.

Managing shared Equipment	I pads can be disinfected with the foggers or andwill be done after every use.	Toys/Equipment in the infant classroom will be cleaned once a week as directed by the Dept. It will not be possible to clean all infant equipment on one day so various items will be steam cleaned/cleaned in dishwasher on a rota basis each day of the week.
Children's Personal equipment	<p>Children in all classes are asked to ensure they have their required equipment everyday. Sharing of personal equipment can't be facilitated at this time.</p> <p>As per last year, children are asked to have two pencil cases with all the usual required equipment and the other will be kept at home.</p>	In the younger classes each child will have a ziplock bag in the classroom with their own resources (plasticine, play dough, glues/scissors.)

Section 3 Hygiene

Sinks	As per recommendations we do not need to have hot water. The main requirement as per department is good quality emulsifying anti- bacterial soap which the school has purchased and hand sanitiser.	Children in the younger classes will be shown good hand cleaning etiquette and hygiene upon their return to school. Child friendly posters will be placed in the hand washing areas of the classrooms. Paper hand towels will be used throughout the school for hand drying.
Hand Sanitising	Children do not need to bring their own sanitiser to school. Hand sanitisers are placed at all main entrances and inside the classrooms.	Guidelines from the Dept in relation to hand sanitising will be followed at all times.

<p>PPE</p>	<p>Children are not required to wear PPE. However it is not the case that this precludes any parent deciding that their primary school child should wear a face covering. If a child is wearing a face covering on a bus or in school they should have a suitable bag to put this into when removed.</p> <p>School Staff will continue to wear masks. Anti- sneeze Perspex screens have are installed around teacher’s tables in each classroom.</p>	<p>The school also has some mobile anti-sneeze screens which can be utilised in smaller group settings where needed.</p>
<p>N.B. Updated Covid 19-Symptoms inline with Delta Variant risk - According to HSE/Dept of Ed Back to School Guidelines for parents 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Do not send your child to school and contact your GP if your child has any of the following symptoms</u> • a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more • A new cough • Loss or changed sense of taste or smell • shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse • Fatigue • aches or pains • Sore throat • Headache • Diarrhoea • Runny or stuff nose • Feeling sick • Do not send your child to school if your child has • been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your GP sends your child for a Covid-19 test, your child should remain at home until a negative test result is received • If Covid-19 is not detected from the test, they can return to school once their symptoms are clear • If Covid-19 is detected, they must self-isolate and follow the instructions from public health • Public health will provide guidance to you on the next steps to follow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • been living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19 • other uncommon symptoms of COVID-19, such as sore throat or headaches 	
NB Children Display symptoms	<p>The school has 2 isolation areas available and if required a 3rd can be created. If a child presents with symptoms they will remain in these areas until an adult can come to collect them. Tissues, hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes, gloves/masks, waste bags and bins are all available in the isolation areas.</p>	<p>It is important that if a child is to be collected that parents consider who that collector should be as you don't want to put an older member i.e. grandparent at risk by collecting them should a child have symptoms. When collecting children parents again are asked to come to the main schooldoor and ring the bell to await entry. Any child displaying symptoms is not allowed go home on the school bus.</p>
Pupils returning from foreign travel	<p>We are obliged to follow government guidelines at that particular time in relation to quarantining and a child cannot re-enter the school without completing quarantining periods.</p>	<p>Please check up to date government guidance for each country.</p>

Perspex Screen	Perspex screens will be cleaned daily. These screens are in use in the teachers classrooms and have been provided as anextra safety provision for staff by the BOM.	Some smaller mobile screens have also been purchased which can be used in smaller numberpupil teacher settings if needed.
Ventilation	Windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use e.g. break times or lunch times unless fogging is taking place. Windows can be partially open when classrooms are in use.	Co2 monitors to be sent to school in September will help monitor CO2 levels.

Underlying Health issues

We ask families to inform us if any child or member of a child's immediate family is defined as "very high risk".

Very High Risk is defined as:

The list of people in very high-risk groups according to the HSE include people who:

- are over 70 years of age - even if you're fit and well have had an organ transplant
- are undergoing active chemotherapy for cancer
- are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
- have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
- are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe COPD.

		<p>have a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)</p> <p>are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)</p> <p>have a serious heart condition and you're pregnant. The Asthma advice line number is 1800 44 54 64 and an action plan is also available at http://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/asthma</p>
Small groups meeting. (committees or Learning Support groups)	All pupils will come from the same class bubble. Max of 5 in senior classes Max of 8 in the junior classes.	The hall will be utilised as the second learning support room.

Learning

SET	Children attending SET will come from the same class bubbles. One to one support will be utilised where necessary and relevant parent will be asked to sign consent forms to allow this arrangement take place.	Assessment will take place in the 1 st term to gauge progress, need and content for children who will be availing of SET.
Communion/Choir	As per dioceses' direction choirs are not allowed. Solo singers and musicians may be chosen to perform at the upcoming Communion/Confirmation.	Communion and Confirmation dates will be communicated as soon as we are given dates.

	Music will be taught this coming term outside or in the church. Distance between performers will be maintained. The church will be fogged by teachers after lessons.	
Online Learning	Seesaw will be used for future Online learning if required.	
Teacher course days / Sick days	Classes will no longer be split if a class teacher is absent.	If a teacher is sick or displays symptoms a separate isolation area is available, and we have been assured that we can get sub cover for teacher absences.