**Scoil Bhríde Covid 19 Response Plan August 2021**

**Underlying Principles**

* This September, we continue to be vigilant and mindful of the safety of all within Scoil Bhríde. The Board of Management has a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan was originally formulated in August 2020, updated in March 2020 and reviewed again now to ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care. This plan is subject to ongoing review throughout the school year 2021/2022.
* It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection completely. 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.
* The flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.
* As this plan is a working document it may change depending on circumstances and guidelines from the Department of Education.
* Guiding our plan at all times is the recognition that
	+ Social distancing
	+ Good ventilation
	+ Hand cleanliness and sanitising
	+ Sneeze and cough etiquette

 are of paramount importance.

**Operational Decisions**

* All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble.
* The school will continue to be split into 2 groups alphabetically, according to family surnames, with each group having different starting times and finishing times.
* The children will also be arranged by class levels (i.e. each class will operate as a bubble) for all breaks and yard time
* The day will include 1 x 15 minute and 1 X 20 minute break per class/bubble
* At certain times, when required, within each class the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods where possible.
* Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry/exit points and in all classrooms and support rooms
* Windows will be kept open as much as possible in order to ensure fresh air in all rooms.
* Carbon dioxide monitors, to be provided by the Department of Education, will be placed in appropriate areas of the school.

**Logistics:**

**Key to Entrance & Exit Points (Please also see map of school attached)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Entrance and Exit Points** | **Letter** |
| **Main Entrance Front Door** | **A** |
| **Front Double PE Hall Doors**  | **B** |
| **Back Double PE Hall Doors**  | **C** |
| **Internal Courtyard Doors** | **D** |
| **Top Long Corridor doors** | **E** |
| **Coiscéimeanna Entrance Door** | **F** |
| **Door from Teacher Car Park** | **G** |
| **Door Beside Room 21 (Infant Exit Door)** |  **H** |

**Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Teacher**  | **Room No** | **Class** | **Entrance & Exit Point** |
| **Ms. Naughton** | **5** | **Jun Inf** | **A** |
| **Ms. McKenna** | **11** | **Sen Inf** | **A** |
| **Ms. McPeake** | **12** | **Sen Inf** | **A** |
| **Ms. Healy** | **21** | **1st Class** | **B** |
| **Ms. S. McCabe** | **10** | **2nd Class** | **B+D** |
| **Ms. A. McCabe** | **4** | **1st/2nd Class** | **A** |
| **Ms. Gannon** | **14** | **3rd Class** | **C** |
| **Ms. Garland/Ms. Walls** | **20** | **3rd/4th Class** | **C** |
| **Mr. O’Shea** | **15** | **4th Class** | **C** |
| **Ms. Maye** | **6** | **5th Class** | **A** |
| **Ms. Durnin** | **7** | **5th Class** | **B+D+E** |
| **Ms. Ryan** | **8** | **6th Class** | **B+D+E** |
| **Ms. Sugrue** | **9** | **6th Class** | **B+D** |
| **Ms. Keating** | **17** | **Rainbows** | **F** |
| **Ms. Murphy** | **18** | **Sunshine** | **F** |
|  |  |  |  |

**Arrival at school Alphabetically**

**Families A-K: 9.10 – 9.20**

**Families L-Z: 9.20 – 9.30**

**Bus: 9.05 and 9.30**

* **Co-operation with these times is vitally important again this year to ensure that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised, reducing risk for all.**
* Each child should walk to their designated entrance point with social distancing observed.
* Children should stand on a marker spot until doors open. Please wait in car until a spot becomes available.
* The supervising teachers will open the doors and invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
* Each child must sanitise hands at entrance, observe social distancing and go directly to his/her classroom to meet their teacher.
* No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
* Parents/guardians should remain in cars
* Messages for teachers can be sent via the school email info@scoilbhridens.ie Aladdin Connect or by phoning the school office.

**End of School Day**

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

**Jun Inf & Sen Inf:**

* Adults who are collecting Infants at 1.50, 1.55 or 2.00 should stand in the yard at the railings in front of the main door (Door A) following social distancing guidelines and wearing a face covering.
	+ the class teacher will bring the children in their pods to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them
	+ Junior Infants: Ms Naughton: 1.50pm
	+ Senior Infants: Ms. McKenna 1.55pm
	+ Senior Infants: Ms McPeake: 2pm

(Junior infant times apply once they are on a full day)

**1st – 6th Class:**

* Adults who are collecting their child/ren from school at 2.50 (Surnames A-K) or 3.00 (Surnames L-Z) should wait in their cars to avoid congregating and keep a close watch for their child/ren
* Children will be supervised walking from their classrooms and will exit the school **at the same door as they enter in the morning**
* Once outside the school children with younger siblings will walk outside to the exit door of the youngest sibling, following social distancing guidelines and wait in their family (childcare) units on designated markers for their adult to collect them. All children will be supervised by staff at this point.
* If your child attends a creche or childminder and your arrangements are different from last year, please contact the school to be assigned a drop off and collection time.
* Bus: 2.55

**Coiscéimeanna:**

* See separate Coiscéimeanna plan

**Please Note: It is most important that parents remember to social distance and wear a mask while on school grounds. This is essential to ensure the safety of our school community.**

**Collection of Children during the School Day**

If an adult needs tocollect a child during the school day, the following arrangements will apply: **(Please remember that early collections can only be facilitated for essential appointments and emergency situations):**

* The adult should notify the school in advance of their intention to collect their child early
* When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived and **wait outside**
* The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
* Bernie, school secretary, will sign the child out
* No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

**Infection Prevention Control Measures – To prevent introduction and spread of Covid 19**

**Know the 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. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a free COVID-19 test.

 -Covid 19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of Primary and Special Schools

**For the complete list of symptoms, please refer to the HSE Website. Symptoms may be subject to change so regular review of the HSE Website is advised.**

**Children who should not attend school**

Please see **Appendix 1** HSE Isolation Guide dated 17.08.2021

Pupils and families must cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school.

# Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

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

NOTE: The isolation room is room number 22

* Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
* The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area by a member of staff. En route and in the isolation room the staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child
* A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if appropriate. S/he should wear the mask while awaiting collection and exiting the premises
* Alternately, the child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when s/he coughs or sneezes and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
* The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation if s/he cannot immediately go home.
* If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for him/her to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible. Public transport of any kind will 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.
* Confidentiality will always be maintained

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.

**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 special education teacher, where relevant) will suggest and share with parents, 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 the following steps will be taken:

* The parents of all children in the class will be notified
* Confidentiality will always be maintained
* Public health advice will be sought and followed

**Personal Equipment**

* In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, 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.
* For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch which will hold each child’s pencils, crayons, etc. Each item will be labelled with their name.
* All children should bring to school each day:
	+ labelled hand sanitiser
	+ a pack of tissues for good coughing/sneezing etiquette
	+ a clean hand towel for the drying of hands after handwashing
* A small towel (perhaps face flannel size) kept in a hygiene bag works very well. The bag should have a loop on it for hanging. There is a hook in each bathroom for this purpose. We recommend purchasing a set of these face towels and children must change them daily.

**Shared Equipment**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. 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.

**Special Education Teaching (SET)**

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 class 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 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

**Personal Protective Equipment: PPE**

PPE will be worn by staff to minimise risk AT TIMES WHEN SOCIAL DISTANCING IS NOT POSSIBLE. Face masks and visors have been provided for each member of staff. Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks/visors.

**Yard**

Children will wear a colour coded bib during play time for ease of identification of class bubbles

**Teacher Absence and Substitution**

If a 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, or a special education 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 not be possible for the class to attend school on that day. If this is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

**PE**

Where possible, PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment will be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points will be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day.

**Uniforms**

Children may wear either Scoil Bhríde uniform or tracksuit on any given day – whichever is practicable. It is advised that extra warm layers (either under armour or a fleece, preferably navy in colour) are worn as the school may feel cool at times due to windows being open to allow fresh air to circulate. **Please make sure to label each item of clothing with your child’s name.**

**Extra-curricular Activities**

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. However, it is still not recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time. The Board of Management will be in contact once they are able to offer extra-curricular activities again.

Extra Information

**Signage:** Signage and markers that are deemed useful and helpful will be placed in areas both indoors and outside as constant reminders to everyone.

**Corridors**: All corridors will operate a **Walk on Left Hand Side** system for social distancing reasons.

**Lunches: Timing of Breaks: Infants – 2nd Class: 10.45- 11.00 and 12.15 – 12.40**

 **3rd – 6th Class: 11.10 – 11.25 and 12.50 – 1.15**

Parents/guardians are asked to 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. Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice. **An important reminder that our school is a nut and kiwi free zone.** This is essential for the safety of a number of pupils with severe allergies.

**Map of School:** Please see attached – Appendix 2

**Labels:** It is **most important that every item that belongs to your child is labelled with his/her name.** It is not possible to operate a lost and found system this year.

**Well - Being Supports for Parents:** please find well-being supports for parents [here.](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0722b-wellbeing-resources/)