



Plan for Reopening Boosterstown National School

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.

Assumptions

- All children return to school and classrooms operate within a bubble.
- Classes will be confined to mixing with only their class group, this includes break time and no whole-school activities (such as assembly) can take place. Within each class, the children will be grouped into pods which will be distanced from each other as much as each classroom allows.
- Children from Third to Sixth Class will be required to stay in their pods and keep socially distanced from other pods within the classroom. Children will be required to use their own resources i.e. pencils, sharpeners, rulers, scissors, Pritt Stick etc, and sharing of resources particularly from Third to Sixth Class will not be allowed.
- There will be no written homework for the first month at least; learning homework such as tables and spellings will continue to be set. School books and pencil cases will remain in school.
- The starting time of the day will not be staggered, the yard will be zoned off to enable classes to line up in their bubble, distanced from each other. We ask parents NOT to join their children in the line, they may wait behind the red line maintaining social distance.
- The day will include our customary 1 x 10 minute break and 1 x 20 minute break

- 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 points and in all class and support rooms

Arrival at school (See amended routine for duration of EWS in garden)

- We ask children to go straight to their class lines when they arrive at the school

Class	Line Up Point	Entry /Exit Point
Infants	Designated marked cone near Basketball Hoop	Back door beside Infant Room
1 st and 2 nd	Designated marked cone in yard near parish hall	Main entrance
3 rd and 4 th	Designated marked cone in yard near the grass	Main entrance
5 th and 6 th	Designated marked cone in yard at the water fountain	Back door beside the Staff Room

- Each class should line up at their designated point with social distancing observed.
- As class bubbles must be maintained pupils MUST not play football/chasing/basketball etc on the school grounds before the start of the day. We ask for your help and cooperation in ensuring your child goes straight to their designated line and waits there.
- The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at 8.30am.
- Each child's hands will be sanitised before entering the school building.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email or by phoning the school office.
- There will be a designated place marked on the office windowsill where forgotten lunches can be left – we would appreciate if every effort is made to ensure children have all they need for the day with them.

End of School Day (See Amended routine for duration of EWS in garden)

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait where the child's class lines up in the morning, observing appropriate social distancing.
- No extra curricular activities will take place on the school campus at present.
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –
 - Junior and Senior Infants - the class teacher will bring the children to the front door where they line up under the office window and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them
 - 1st - 6th Class – the class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.
 - 1st and 2nd class will exit via the back door beside the infant room, 3rd and 4th will exit via the main door and 5th and 6th will exit via the back door beside the staffroom.

Please leave the school and parish grounds promptly and do not allow your children to congregate on the campus.

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 either phone the office or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out
- Unfortunately, parents may not enter the school grounds or school building unless prior approval has been sought from Mrs Fraser or Mrs Lyons. All adults who are given permission to enter the school building must complete a Contact Tracing Form.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. Please err on the side of caution if you are unsure. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area (the General Purpose Room) 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
- 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.
- Staff will follow Appendix 7 – Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 in the COVID-19 Response Plan.

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 with a fever
- Children showing symptoms of a respiratory virus
- 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 suggested activities to support the child's learning at home will be shared with parents.

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, rubbers, scissors, Pritt Stick etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. Their pencil case will remain in school, please place all items in ONE pencil case.
- All children are asked to wear freshly laundered clothes daily.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- Lunchbags are no longer allowed in the school, please bring lunches in a hard plastic container which can be fully washed daily. Leftover and uneaten lunch will be brought home again.
- Every child should have their own re-sealable water bottle, we cannot provide drinking cups to children who forget their drink and the water fountain is out of use.
- All children should bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser and a hand towel/facecloth to school for the drying of hands after handwashing, this should be in a clearly marked ziplock bag and changed daily.
- The windows will be open in all areas of the school daily to increase ventilation – no matter what the weather, so please dress appropriately, the classrooms may be colder than the children are used to!

Shared Equipment

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

Yard Time

- Each class bubble will have access to the yard during their allotted break time. The yard will be zoned into three areas and a further class bubble will play in the Mount Merrion Avenue garden.
- These zones will be rotated daily according to a yard duty timetable devised by the staff. Children will leave the building via the doors they used to enter in the morning and line up to re-enter the school at their morning lines also.
- Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's.

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 and Enhanced Cleaning Regime

- Staff will wear face visors when social distancing is not possible.
- Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks.
- Each classroom will be timetabling regular handwash breaks into the school day, we ask you to ensure your child has washed their hands thoroughly before coming to school.
- The school will be cleaned by staff members and contract cleaners daily following government guidelines.

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 not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

Curricular Progress

The Department of Education and Skills and the National Educational Psychological Service recommends we **SLOW DOWN to CATCH-UP**. Curricular progress may appear to be gradual initially. We will be focusing on Languages, Numeracy and Well-being. The teaching staff will be assessing all the children in the core subject areas and planning the curricular content of lessons accordingly.

We know that some children, parents and teachers may be anxious or uncertain. Please be conscious to refer to school in as normal a manner as possible and to avoid any hype or concern. Please assure your child that the staff will look after them and keep them safe.

PE

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and use of equipment should be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. When the Parish Hall is being used by class groupings we will enter the parish hall via the fire exit door and the toilets in the hall will be out of use.

EWS Building works in Mount Merrion Avenue Garden

For the duration of the building works (mid September - mid November 2020) the following procedure will apply.

Morning Arrival:

- All children line up at their designated class cone on arrival
- Class Teachers and SNAs spray the children's hands in line.
- Children enter by the front doors Infants, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
- Teacher to ensure previous class have cleared corridor before entry.

Breaktime:

- Classes leave the school via the front door once teacher has confirmed the corridor is clear of other classes.

Home time:

- 1st – 6th class leave at staggered intervals to ensure no congregation of groups at the door.
- Children wait at their designated class cones until parents arrive.