



Plan for the reopening of St. Aidan's SNS.

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make an 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. ***In this light it is important that parents do not send sick children to school. A HSE return to school form must be completed for each child returning to school. This will be forwarded to you by your child's teacher via email.***
- 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 classes operate within a bubble system. A class will now be called a Bubble.

- The school, as you are aware, is split into classes. Classes and children will arrive from 8.40 am and depart from school from 2.20pm (5th and 6th) and 2.30 pm (3rd and 4th).
- Classes, for the purpose of breaktimes, will play in their own zone in the yard, in their own bubble sharing a supervisor. These breaktimes will be staggered.
- The day will include 1x 15 break and 1 x 25 break for each bubble.
- 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 (approx 4/5 in a pod).
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all classrooms and learning support rooms and children will be reminded to wash their hands at regular intervals.

Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes:

All classes will enter and exit from the St. Aidan's side of the front gate and the Glenshane & Rossfield gate through the points marked. A,B,C.

Arrival at school

- **Both gates will be open from 8.40 on Monday March 15th.**
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Parents are not to congregate at the gates.
- All adults must wear a mask on
- Messages for teachers can be sent by your child's journal, email or by phoning the school office.

End of School Day

- Adults who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day should wait outside the gate.
- There will be staggered departure times as follows:
2.25 pm: 5th & 6th.
2.30pm: 3rd & 4th.

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 buzzer at the front door of the school to alert the secretary.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- Visitors & parents entering the school will wear a face covering.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out at the front office.

- No adult should enter the school building, unless by prior appointment or to collect their child(ren)

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 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 wear PPE and 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. The child may also be isolated in the classroom at a distance of 2m
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if one is available. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises.
- An assessment will be made by the teacher and Principal/Deputy Principal 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 given a disposable tissue, 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 provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home and 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

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc. to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. These will remain in the school.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets and laptops/ chrome books. 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.

Yards

Each bubble will have access to the yards during their allotted break times as follows. The Junior Yard will be divided into two sections, the Senior yard into six sections with the basketball court also being used. Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within those bubbles.

Learning Support

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. Withdrawal of children will be limited. 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 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. It may be necessary for staff to wear a face mask/visor if they are unable to maintain a 2m distance from Pods within the class.

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.

Uniform:

Children will wear their tracksuits as normal. Parents are asked to ensure children arrive clean and tidy. Bags will be placed under their chair and coats are placed inside.

PE

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