

## **Plan for Reopening of St. Peter's NS- August 26th**

### **Underlying Principles**

- The school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents/guardians 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 on a full-time basis. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.
- It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the cooperation 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 cooperation, 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. Essentially, each class operates as its own bubble and every effort will be made to reduce contact with children in other classes.
- The day will include 1x 20 minute break (10 minutes in the class eating and 10 minutes on the yard) and 1x 30 minute break (10 minutes in the class eating and 20 minutes on the yard).
- Within each class from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Timetable

Time	Action
8.50 am	Start of drop-off period with supervision
9.00 am	School start
11.00 am	Break time
11.10 am	Class resumes
12.30 pm	Lunch time
1.00 pm	Class resumes
1.40 pm	Infant classes finish
Staggered release times	The release times will be staggered between 2.40 pm and 2.45 pm to ensure that children can exit the school in a safe manner.

## Entrance and Exit Doors

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Enter at door nearest the yard and drop off	1
Enter via the Hall door	2
Move around the front of the school and enter near 3rd class room	3
Enter at back of the school	4

## Entrance and Exit Doors for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point
Ms. Mulcahy/ Ms. McCarthy	Jun Inf	1
Ms. Comer	Sen Inf	1
Ms. Coyne	1st	3
Ms. J. O'Sullivan	2nd	2
Ms. Fleming	3rd	3
Ms. Doyle/Ms. Hoskins (Job Share)	4th	4
Ms. C. O'Sullivan	5th	4
Mr. Healy/ Ms. McCarthy	6th	4

### Arrival at school

- To facilitate a safe entry for the children, the doors of the school will be opened at 8.50 am and there will be supervision available in the classrooms from this time onwards.
- Please note that school will begin, as normal, at 9.00 am.
- We recommend that parents/guardians observe social distancing guidelines when dropping off their child, wear a face covering when exiting cars and to exit the grounds once your child has safely been passed over to a member of staff.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school building.

### End of School Day

- The exit from the building at the end of the school day will be staggered slightly as highlighted above. We feel that these short time differences should be adequate to get the children out safely. The exit will be coordinated using a school bell.
- The exit points and the car park will be supervised by members of staff.
- Parents/Guardians who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day should wait beside their car. However, the parents of children in Junior Infants and Senior Infants

should make their way to the exit point and wait, observing social distancing guidelines and wearing a face covering.

### **Collection of Children during the School Day**

If a parent/guardian needs to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- When the parent/guardian arrives at the school, they should use the intercom at the hall door to alert the office that they have arrived.
- The child will be brought from their class to the parent/guardian by a member of staff. Their early exit should be documented on Aladdin.
- No parent/guardian should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

### **Dropping off essential items during the School Day**

If a parent/guardian needs to drop off an essential item for a child, the following arrangements will apply:

- When the parent/guardian arrives at the school, they should use the intercom at the hall door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived.
- A member of staff will arrange for the essential item to be delivered to the child.

### **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing will be achieved in a number of ways:

- Increasing Separation- This will be achieved by reconfiguring the classrooms to maximise space. Each class group will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble/classroom. The Department of Education does not expect there to be physical distancing in place for Junior Infants to 2nd, but from 3rd to 6th there will be at least a 1 metre distance between pods in classes.
- Decreasing Interaction- This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. There will be clear routes for various classes/bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. The yard will also be divided into eight sections to provide individual play areas for all the classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

### **Hygiene and Health**

There will be a considerable focus on hand washing upon returning to school, particularly at the following times:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet

- After playing outdoors
- When hands are physically dirty
- When a child/adult coughs or sneezes

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing, touching surfaces and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of their preparation for returning to school.

#### **Ventilation:**

The Department has published guidance setting out the practical steps for good ventilation in accordance with public health advice 'Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools'. The guidance sets out an overall approach for schools that windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use.

#### **Staff duties:**

Cooperate with any public health personnel and their school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice given in the event of a case or outbreak in their school

Undergo any COVID-19 testing that may be required in their school as part of mass or serial testing as advised by Public Health.

#### **COVID-19 Awareness and Procedures:**

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms:

- 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.

If you have any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a COVID-19 test. Other people in your household will need to restrict their movements (stay at home).

### **Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19:**

Staff/Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately;
- Isolate the person and have a procedure in place to accompany the individual to the designated isolation area via the isolation route, keeping at least 2m away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic person at all times;
- The isolation area does not have to be a room but if it is not a room it should be 2m away from others in the room;
- If it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m, a staff member caring for a pupil should wear a face covering or mask. Gloves should not be used as the virus does not pass through skin;
- Provide a mask for the person presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises;
- Assess whether the individual who is displaying symptoms can immediately be directed to go home/be brought home by parents who will call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home;
- Facilitate the person presenting with symptoms remaining in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and facilitate them calling their doctor. The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects. Advice should be given to the person presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided;
- If the person is well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner 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, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect;
- Carry out an assessment of the incident which will form part of determining follow-up actions and recovery;
- Arrange 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 and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.

Staff will be encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contact tracing purposes.

### **Staff/Children not returning to or attending school:**

Staff/Children should not return to or attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 under any circumstances.

Staff/Children should also not return to or attend school in the event of the following:

- if they have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending

- if they are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- if they have travelled outside of Ireland; in such instances staff are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19 whilst within the school facility
- if they have underlying health conditions and have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- if they are generally unwell

### **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.

### **Personal Equipment**

- It is requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- We suggest that the covers of any books/copybooks that are used at home are wiped with disinfectant after use.

### **School Uniforms**

School uniforms and tracksuits should be worn, but it is recommended that the children alternate between a uniform and tracksuit and spare uniform or tracksuit from day to day.

### **Shared Equipment**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including iPads, PE equipment and the equipment used for structured activities and play in the Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals and/or after use to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

### **Yards**

The yard will be divided into eight sections (Junior Infants to 6th Class) with only one class allowed in each section during yard time.

### **PPE**

- Please be aware that all staff members will be wearing face coverings in school, where physical distancing cannot be observed. Please inform children of this.
- Current guidance from the Department of Education will always be followed.

Medical Grade Masks: In line with DES guidelines, the school will provide medical grade masks in the EN16483 category to all SNAs and teachers.

## **Toilets**

We are fortunate enough that each classroom is equipped with its own toilets and these will only be used by the relevant class groupings throughout the day. Children will be encouraged to use the toilets in their own classrooms before yardtimes. In the case of an emergency, pupils will use the toilets in the room closest to the yard and this area will be cleaned after breaktime. Emulsifying soap dispensers have been installed in the individual classroom toilets and all toilets will be cleaned daily.

## **Special Education**

Special Education will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure a minimum amount of movement between class bubbles.

- Where a Special Education Teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers will 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 the SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

## **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 give suggested activities to support the child's learning at home and these will be shared with parents/guardians. This work will not be compulsory and families should complete as much work as is possible for them.

## **Teacher Absence and Substitution**

In the event that 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, a Special Education Teacher/Principal will be asked to teach the class. If this is not possible, and as it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes, 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/guardians.

**This plan is based on current guidelines and may need to be altered depending on further public health advice that may be issued in the future. St. Peter's NS will continue to assess, review and evaluate this plan, and will make the necessary amendments and changes to keep all pupils, staff and parents safe.**