Logistics Plan

for

Return to School

September 2021

**St. John’s N.S. Kenmare**

**Bunscoil Eoin Naofa An Neidín**

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**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 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.

* The co-operation, flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

* It is critical that staff, pupils, parents and visitors are aware of and adhere to the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all procedures and health and safety requirements.

* All members of our school community will actively promote awareness of COVID-19 symptoms.

* Signage informing members of the school community of the symptoms of Covid-19 and the need for social distancing are displayed at all access points to school grounds.

* All members of the school community will embed in pupils the need for appropriate respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene.

* Parents, pupils and staff will adhere to all procedures.

**Organisation**

* On return to school, some older classes will operate within a bubble system – this means each class is a bubble.

* The day will include 1 x 10 min morning break and 1x 30 min lunch break for each pupil as usual.
* From Junior Infants to 2nd class the children will sit in pods (groups) of 4 to 6 pupils. Each pod will be kept 1 metre apart in so far as possible.

* Children from 3rd to 6th will be in their class bubbles and will not mix with other classes as far as possible.

* Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry points to the School and in all classrooms, and Support Rooms.

**TIMETABLES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Junior Timetable** | **Senior Timetable** |
| **Junior Infants****9.20 a.m. - 2.00p.m.** | **1st/2ndh classes****9.20 a.m. – 2.50 p.m.** |
| **Senior Infants****9.20 a.m.  –  2.00 p.m.** | **3rd/4th Classes****5th/6th Classes****9.20 - 3.00pm** |

**Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils**

It is of vital importance that we avoid congregations of parents or pupils at any point in the vicinity of our school so that the health and safety of all is guaranteed and social distancing guidelines are followed.

In a recent Survey of parents, data returned indicated that 72.5% of pupils travel to and from school in family cars.

15.4% walk or cycle to and from school

12.1% use bus transport

* We know that more than 60% of the school pupil population live within 2 km of the school, so to help reduce traffic in the vicinity of the school we are encouraging as many pupils as possible, particularly those in the 10 – 12 age group, to walk/cycle to school, weather permitting.
* As of now and based on the school timetable outlined above we are asking families who need to drop off an infant pupil to use the car parking spaces in the set down area only.
* If these families have pupils in other classes they can drop them also so that they can join their class assembly line (see map).
* All other families dropping pupils are asked to park in the SuperValu or

Church car parks and walk your child (if necessary) to the designated gate nearest their assembly line. Each gate/ entrance will be clearly marked with signage.

**Gate A = 3rd & 4th Class**

**Gate B = 5th & 6th Class**

**Gate C = 1st & 2nd Class plus Senior Infant pupils accompanied by parents.**

**At Home time**

1. Children using bus transport will be escorted from their classes at 2.50p.m.
2. Pupils from classes 1st – 6th will leave the school via designated doors.

As Infant pupils will have already been collected at 2p.m. we can accommodate the collection of pupils using the school car park

1st and 2nd Classes at 2.50pm

3rd and 4th Classes &

5th and 6th Classes at 3.00pm

**Before Arrival at school**

* Please ensure your child’s hands are thoroughly washed each morning before leaving the house.
* Teachers are aware of the importance of good hand hygiene for all and will ensure the regular cleaning of hands and the use of sanitizer.

**Frequency of Hand Hygiene**

* Pupils and staff MUST perform hand hygiene:
* On arrival at school;
* Before eating or drinking;
* After using the toilet;
* After playing outdoors;
* When their hands are physically dirty;
* When they cough or sneeze

**Arrival at school**

* The school yard is supervised from 9.10a.m. As pupils can no longer congregate and mix together before school we are asking parents to make sure that their children do not arrive before then.
* On arrival, all pupils are to go straight to their dedicated class assembly line (See map of new lines below).
* Each class should line up with social distancing observed.
* The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
* NO ADULTS, other than staff members, should enter the building.
* Messages for teachers can be sent via Aladdin connect.

**Wet Mornings**

* On wet mornings **t**he school will open at 9.10am and the children will go directly to their classes where they will be supervised by staff. Designated gates should be used by pupils on wet mornings.

**Parental responsibilities at assembly /dismissal**

* Parents must arrive on time for dropping off and collecting their child.
* Only parents/ guardians who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised are allowed to drop off and collect children.
* Any parent who is in a very high-risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves.
* Parents are not allowed on the school grounds, *with the exception of parents of Infant pupils and pupils with special needs.*
* Parents must not congregate in groups outside the school
* Parents who are permitted on school grounds (Infants and pupils with additional needs) must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
* At arrival and departure times social distancing is to be maintained by children and parents.

**Physical Distancing**

Maintaining physical distancing in the school environment is one of the key control measures to minimize the risk of the introduction and spread of

COVID-19.

* Physical distancing will be applied in a practical way that recognises that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue. Physical distancing in our school will look different across the various ages and stages of learning.
* It is recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from pupils and it is not appropriate that they would always be expected to do so where this could have a detrimental impact on the pupil i.e. if a child sustains an injury and requires first aid. However, where possible staff should maintain a minimum of 1m distance and where possible 2m.
* They should also take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down. Staff will wear suitable face coverings while at work.
* All adult visitors to the school, as scheduled by appointment, must maintain a 2m distance from school staff and wear suitable face coverings.
* Our school community is committed to the two principles of physical distancing, namely, increasing separation and decreasing interaction, as a means of minimising the risk of the introduction of Covid-19 to our school

**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 report directly to the school reception.** No non- member of staff may enter the school or call to a child’s classroom directly.
* 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
* No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

**Meeting a Teacher**

The new restrictions do not lessen the importance of parent-teacher communication. Any messages you wish to give a teacher can be done on Aladdin Connect/email. Any meeting, no matter how brief must be organised in advance.

**Parents can no longer wait to speak to a teacher before or after school.**

Once a meeting is confirmed it will be held remotely or in person with adherence to all social distancing protocols.

**School uniform**

Pupils should wear their full school uniform as normal with tracksuits being worn on PE days as designated by class teacher. Parents should use their discretion in deciding the frequency of washing uniforms/tracksuits. We would suggest that if uniforms need more frequent washing then the tracksuit could be worn instead. Teachers will be flexible in this regard.

**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 (until instructed to return by the GP)
* 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, please follow the advice/guidance on the Isolation Quick Guide that you previously received.

**Inability to attend school due to Covid-19**

* Pupils who are unable to attend school on medical grounds, due to Covid-19, must provide the school with a letter/report from their GP/Consultant stating that they cannot attend on health grounds.
* In the absence of medical certification of non-attendance, the school is obliged by law to implement the terms of The Education Welfare Act as normal.

**Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school**

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time (because of doctors’ instructions), the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will provide suggested activities to support the child’s learning at home.

**Hygiene and Cleaning**

* Sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom and support room, and in offices.
* Emulsifying soap is available in all toilets.
* Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.
* In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned by a team of contract cleaners (Steam Clean, Kenmare) once per day.
* The school will provide a steam-cleaning-fogging disinfecting service, if required.

* Frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities will be cleaned on a rotational basis during the school day by a cleaner employed by the Board of Management.
* All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area.
* Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.
* Waste will be collected regularly from offices and other areas within the school.

**Lunches**

* Parents must ensure that all lunch boxes/water bottles are sanitised before being placed in the child’s schoolbag.
* Parents MUST ensure that pupils have sufficient lunch/drink coming to school each morning as we will not be in a position to accept and distribute lunches during the school day.
* Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.
* Please make sure your child is self-sufficient i.e. they can open/peel any lunch/drink you pack for them. Please pay particular attention to any drinks that require a straw.
* Please make sure they have enough drinks to last them throughout the day as we will not be in a position to refill drinks bottles.

**WET DAYS**

Children will remain in their bubbles (class) and pods (groups) and adhere to social distancing in class while being supervised by teachers and SNAs.

**Personal Equipment**

* In so far as possible, it is requested that children from Junior Infants 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.

**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.

**Yards**

Each class will have a designated space in the yard and they can freely mix with their own class (3rd to 6th) and with their class group (Juniors to 2nd).

Each class will have a 10 min morning break and 30 min lunch break outside each day. They will be supervised by teachers and SNAs.

**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 the bubble system.

* 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.

**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. The SET team and Principal will cover the class until a sub is found.

*In extreme circumstances where there is a high number of teachers absent and no substitution available, 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.*

**PE**

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points should be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day and equipment will be wiped down after use.

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

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

* High temperature – 38 degrees or higher without another medical reason or
* A new cough or difficulty breathing or
* Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties or
* Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

 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 (Room 2) via the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from the symptomatic child at all times, while ensuring the child is cared for properly.
* 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.
* An assessment will be made 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.
* 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.
* 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.

**Our general duty of care**

Our first duty to the school community is care. Teachers will still at times need to sit next to a child to help them with their work or if a child is upset a teacher or SNA may take their hand or comfort them. All staff will operate with the highest standards of hand hygiene and social distance etiquette but as the management of St John’s NS we accept and understand that the staff care for the pupils in myriad of ways and it is right that this continues in the ‘new norm’.