



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**



## Overview of School Operating Changes as necessitated by Covid-19 Pandemic

The measures listed in this document are as a result of documentation issued to schools by the Acting Chief Medical Officer on behalf of NEPHET and the Oireachtas, by the Department of Education and the Department of Social Protection. The Government has stated that no activity is without risk and in deciding to fully reopen schools they accept that this increase risk, however this risk is offset by the risks posed to students if they remain out of school.

All members of the school community; students, parents and staff will be required to change the way they interact in order to a) minimise the risk of catching the virus and b) minimise the spread of the virus in the event of someone in the school community contracting the virus.

Many of these measures will seem strange and restrictive, however they have been identified as essential to ensure that risk is minimized within the school community so that school can reopen in September and remain open during the pandemic. Only by working together can we protect each other. It is in the interests of all that these measures are followed by students and supported by parents and guardians.

Our full Covid plan will be on the school website as well as other relevant information. In the meantime, please read this document to get an overview of the changes that we are required to make in the school.

We have a shared desire to re-open our school safely as possible and to work to keep the school open. We are requesting that all members of the school community, without exception, uphold these new operating procedures at all times.

Thank you for your support.

Eilis Casey

Principal

Instructions from DES or DoSP or Acting Chief Medical Officer	Measures to be taken in response to Risk
<p>Schools are to eliminate as many points of cross contamination as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will bring their school journal, subject copies and pencil case to school each day. They must also bring materials such as calculators and materials as necessitated by specialist subjects eg. Set squares, paint brushes. No items can be shared and no items can be loaned to students.</li> <li>• Text books are to remain at home and used to assist in completing home work and preparing for tests.</li> <li>• Each student will have a school email and Team account where teachers will utilise to facilitate teaching and learning and link with home. Students are bound to follow the school’s Acceptable Usage Policy at all times.</li> <li>• Students will not have access to lockers as they have been identified as a primary area for congregation and possible contamination.</li> <li>• On arriving at school each morning students will proceed directly to the room where their first class is scheduled. Clock in is suspended for the moment. There is no congregating in the General Purpose area or corridors.</li> <li>• At all times during the school day students must follow a one way system on the stairs and a contra flow system on the corridors;</li> <li>• Dedicated entrances and exits are provided for Year Groups for entering the school in the morning and lunch time</li> <li>• Year Groups have been assigned dedicated areas outside at lunch time</li> <li>• Break time and lunch times have been split. First, Second and Third Years are on first break and lunch time. TY’s, Fifth and Sixth Years are on second break and lunch time.</li> <li>• By agreement with Centra Doon, lunches can only be ordered through a dedicated App either the night before or up to 10.00 am on the morning of delivery.</li> <li>• Parents dropping off lunches, copies etc. must now drop them in to a drop box located inside the main entrance door. The student will then collect.</li> <li>• Desks will be arranged in classes as per DES requirements. Under no circumstances can these desks be moved.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be given assigned seating in their classroom and must clean the desk and chair before and after class.</li> <li>• There will be no water fountain in operation in the school as this has been identified as a point of contamination.</li> <li>• Students will not have access to Changing rooms or shower facilities. Students will bring with them their runners on the days they have PE. No other PE gear is required.</li> </ul>
<p>New procedures in place to eliminate risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will receive training upon their return to school.</li> <li>• Visitors eg. Guest speakers to the school will be strictly limited.</li> <li>• No reception area will be open to parents/guardians. Nobody can arrive at the school unannounced.</li> <li>• Visits to the school are by appointment only.</li> <li>• When collecting a child to take to an appointment parents/guardians must ring ahead to say they are collecting their child and remain in the car while the child is signed out by the administrative staff.</li> <li>• Monies including cash must be in a sealed envelope with the name of the child and the amount on the front of the envelope.</li> <li>• Windows in classes and corridors will be open as much and as long as possible to increase ventilation. Students are requested to wear additional layers of clothes under their uniform and also have with them a dark coloured jacket.</li> </ul>
<p>Schools are asked to promote and facilitate good hygiene etiquette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No students are permitted to come to school if ill. If a student gets ill in school they will be required to leave the class and go to the isolation area. You will be requested to collect your child as soon as possible. This is referred to as the 'STAY AT HOME POLICY' and is compulsory for all students and staff members in schools in Ireland.</li> <li>• Students must wash their hands frequently during the day, especially after using the bathroom</li> <li>• Students are also requested to sanitize their hands at the beginning of each class and also at the end of each class</li> <li>• We strongly encourage students to wear facemasks, but they are not compulsory in the school. They are however compulsory on school buses. Face coverings worn in schools must not carry and offensive language or symbols or images.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must not share any items with others and must not use the items of others.</li> <li>• Students who bring their own lunches, drink bottles or flasks must clearly label the item with their name and must not be left lying around the school</li> <li>• Students must dispose of all waste items, tissues, masks, food etc, correctly.</li> </ul>
<p>Schools are asked to maintain records on both staff and students which will be make available to the HSE in the event of an outbreak.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students are asked to declare if they have been abroad and undertake the mandatory 14 days self-isolation period for all countries except those on the Department of Foreign Affairs Green List.</li> <li>• Staff and students may not attend school if they have symptoms, are awaiting test results or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus or is suspected of having the virus</li> <li>• Staff and students who have the virus must provide a medical clearance cert when returning to school</li> </ul>