



## **Annagh Hill National School - Plan for Reopening**

### **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 classes operate within a bubble system. Each class group e.g. junior and senior infants; first and second class etc. is regarded as a bubble and the children will only mix with the children in their bubble during the course of a school day.
- Doors will open at of 9.10 am to admit children to allow for social distancing to occur on entry.
- The school will split into two groups for break times - Junior Infants to Second Class and Third to Sixth Class. Each group will have different break and lunch times in order to reduce the potential for mixing with other bubbles.
- 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. A pod is a smaller group of children within a class grouping or bubble.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry/exit points and in all class and support rooms

- Warm water and soap will be available in all classrooms for handwashing.
- All classrooms will have windows open for as long as is possible but at a minimum for two periods of at least 15 minutes per day to improve ventilation and minimise risk.

## Break times

### Juniors to Second Class

Small Break 10:50-11:00

Lunch Break 12:30-1:00

### Third to Sixth Class

Small Break 11:05-11:15

Lunch Break 1.05-1:35

## Entry and Exit Points

### Gates

Junior Infants and Senior Infants to enter and exit via first gate on the left as you enter the car park.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to enter and exit via second gate on the left as you enter car park.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to enter and exit via third gate on the left as you enter car park.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to enter and exit via double gates near sand pits.

\*All gates will be clearly signposted.

### Doors

Junior Infants and Senior Infants to enter via the side door near poly tunnel.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to enter via Ms. Grealish's classroom door.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to enter via Ms. Martin's classroom door.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to enter via front door beside secretary's office.

\*All students to observing social distancing of at least a metre when entering and exiting the school grounds/building/classrooms. **All students will be required to sanitise their hands prior to entering their classroom.**

## Arrival at School

- Parents may drop their children from 9:10am. **In line with Departmental guidelines, no child should be dropped to school before this time in order to avoid congregations and mixing of class groupings before school begins.**
- Children must go directly to their assigned entry point where a teacher will admit them.
- Children must go directly to their class bubble and, in the case of Third to Sixth Class, to their assigned pod within the class bubble.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by homework diary, email or by phoning the school office.

## End of School Day

The following arrangements will apply at the end of the school day –

- Junior and Senior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - the class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class - the class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.
- Children who use the bus to travel home from school will form a queue in a designated area observing social distancing guidelines of at least one metre.

## Uniform

Children are requested to wear their school uniform as normal from Monday to Thursday and their PE uniform on Fridays (unless otherwise instructed by their class teacher).

## Lunches

Ensure that your child is given a lunchbox that they can easily open themselves and lunches that they can manage without requiring assistance from their class teacher in order to avoid cross contamination.

## 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 to alert 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 and a contact log of those entering the school facilities will be kept. This is to help facilitate contact tracing in the event of a case.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

## 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 on the numbers provided. **If the secretary cannot contact the parent/guardian, then the back-up person will be contacted.**
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff (teacher). 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 member of the SET will be asked to step into the classroom to supervise the class in the teacher's absence maintaining social distancing**
- 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, and will assist them by calling their GP or the school's designated GP.
- 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.
- 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, distance learning will be provided to support the child's learning at home will be shared with parents by the class teacher (and the support teacher where relevant).

#### **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, 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.
- Children are requested to bring a rain jacket to school on days that are wet as it is preferable that the outdoor environment is used during breaks rather than the classroom.

#### **Shared Equipment**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, shared readers and the equipment used for structured activities and play in the Infant classroom. iPads will be

wiped clean after use by the teacher before being returned to their trolley. Shared readers will be wiped between uses.

Cleaning of all shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection. Toys in the infant rooms will be cleaned regularly in line with the guidelines provided in the response plan.

### **Yards**

Each class grouping/bubble will have a designated area of the yard to use during their breaks. This will be the case in order to minimise the opportunity of mixing with other bubbles. Yards will be supervised by staff members working within those bubbles.

### **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. Staff members may be required to wear face coverings/visors where the necessary physical distancing guidelines cannot be adhered to. Pupils will not be required to wear face coverings.

### **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 be necessary for a member of the special Education team to supervise the class on that day.

### **PE**

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and any equipment used should be wiped down by the teacher after use.

### **Risk Assessment**

A risk assessment to identify risks to be managed at school level has been carried out by the Board of Management and this will be published on our school website, along with this plan.