



## Bulletin No.2: School Re-opening Information for Parents/Guardians

The school will reopen on a staggered basis in order to help the students come to terms with the new routines of school. Dates for the re-opening of Creagh College are outlined below. Please note the final date of the school term this academic year is later than usual (4<sup>th</sup> June 2020) which explains the later than usual start back to school.

| Date                                | Year Group In  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September  | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Years only (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b>  |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September    | <b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Years (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b>  |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September    | <b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Years (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b><br><br><b>(New students transferring to Creagh College from other post-primary schools 11.20-1.20)</b> |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September   | <b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Years only (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b><br><b>(1<sup>st</sup> Years at home)</b>  |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Years only (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b><br><b>(1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Years at home)</b>                                     |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Years only (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b><br><b>(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Year at home)</b>                      |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September   | <b>TY Induction &amp; all Seniors (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b><br><b>(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years at home)</b>                                       |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September   | <b>All 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years only (Full Day 8.50-4.00)</b><br><b>(TYs, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years at home)</b>                |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September  | <b>All students in school (Full Day 8.50-3.20)</b>   |

### VSWARE

We are now publishing students timetables for parents to view in advance of school re-opening. This is to facilitate students knowing what tutor room to go to on the first morning. For First year students, we will have Meitheal leaders (6<sup>th</sup> year students), on hand to guide you to your tutor room. Could all students please note that there is now a one-way system in operation around the school (see map). Please go to <https://support.vsware.ie/parent-profiles> for support on how to access vsware. There will be teachers available to help guide you where to go also.

### First Day

Regrettably, parents/guardians may not accompany their child(ren) into the school on the first day. Some students will arrive by bus, and we would encourage those who can, to walk and cycle if possible. Students should arrive no earlier than 8.15am (unless arriving by public transport), wear appropriate face coverings (see below) and remain 2 metres apart from

other students as they arrive and follow signage, floor markings and staff members for guidance.

Students can enter the school through either of the front doors of the school from 8.15 onwards. On entry they will be asked to go to their Class Tutor room. As per national guidelines, all staff will wear face coverings and students will be required to do so where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres. This will be explained to students during the induction training. Certain students may not be required to wear face coverings and that will be arranged on an individual basis.

### Breaktimes

There are some changes to breaktimes this year to maximise physical distancing and interaction between year groups. However, it is not possible to show these changes on the students' timetables so they will be adjusted by each student as it is explained to them.

| Suggested timetable for staggering break and lunchtime |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> years  | 1 <sup>st</sup> , TY & 6 <sup>th</sup> Years   |
| <b>Tutor/wellbeing 8.52-9.00</b>                       |  |  |
| Period 1   | 9:00-9:40  | 9:00-9:40  |
| Period 2   | 9:40-10:20   | 9:40-10:20   |
| Period 3/<br>Breaktime                                 | 10:20-11:00 Period 3   | <b>Breaktime 10.20-10.40</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> years: Canteen<br>TY: Central Activities/Senior Eating<br>6 <sup>th</sup> year: Car Park               |
| Breaktime<br>/Period 3                                 | <b>Breaktime 11.00- 11.20</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> years: Canteen<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> years: Central Activities/Senior Eating<br>5 <sup>th</sup> year: Car Park   | 10.40-11.20<br>Period 3  |
| Period 4   | 11:20-12:00  | 11:20-12:00  |
| Period 5   | 12:00-12:40  | 12:00-12:40  |
| Period 6/<br>Lunchtime                                 | 12:40-13:20 Period 6   | <b>Lunchtime 12:40-13:20</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> years: Canteen<br>TY: Senior Eating Area or CARPARK<br>6 <sup>th</sup> year: Car Park or Out of School |
| Lunchtime<br>/ Period 6                                | <b>Lunchtime 13:20-14:00</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> years: Canteen<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> years: Senior Eating Area<br>5 <sup>th</sup> year: Car Park or out of school | 13:20-14:00<br>Period 6  |
| Period 7   | 14:00-14:40  | 14:00-14:40  |
| Period 8   | 14:40-15:20  | 14:40-15:20  |

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Period 9<br>(Mondays<br>only) | 15:20-16:00 | 15:20-16:00 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|

You will notice in the table that we have divided the school into having two separate break and lunch times. This will assist students having adequate space at breaks to eat while remaining socially distant. The year groups have been divided as per size of group and to allow students access to lockers when they become available (see below). It is of utmost importance that all students are cognisant of classes still in operation while they might be on break. Students will be limited to certain areas of the school, along with the pitches, during breaks. We would encourage all students to bring suitable coats etc so as to avail of the outdoor breaks as far as possible. Students will need to take welcome breaks from their face coverings and can do so if they socially distance themselves, particularly outdoors.

### **Multi-storey car park space**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years can access the multi-storey car park on level 1 during morning break and lunch break. This is a well-ventilated covered space which will allow more space for our senior students to have a break in a sheltered area. We have invested over €25,000 on seating for this area in order to make this new area as comfortable as possible. It is essential that students only access the permitted level and respect this area. TY students may access this space at lunchtime only.

### **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years - Lunchbreak**

Our most senior students will now be allowed to leave the school for their lunch break. This is a privilege that we want to see working for our students. It is of utmost importance that students represent the college well when leaving and returning from the school and that they are responsible for their punctuality. This is a privilege that we do not want to rescind from our most senior students in the future.

### **Hygiene and Cleaning**

Sanitiser dispensers are installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, at the door of each classroom, etc. Soap (through soap dispensers, which emulsifies at low temperatures) and hot water 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. BAM, our facility managers have employed cleaning staff to ensure that all dispensers are adequately stocked throughout the day and frequently touched items are cleaned regularly throughout the day. Each classroom will be deep-cleaned at the end of every day.

### **Handwashing and Sanitising Regime for Students**

| <b>Time</b>                   | <b>Method</b>                           |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Upon entering school          | Sanitiser available at entrance doors   |
| Upon entering each classroom  | Sanitiser                               |
| Before eating at little break | Handwashing                             |
| After returning from break    | Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty) |
| Before eating at lunchtime    | Handwashing                             |
| After returning from lunch    | Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty) |

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Before going home   | Sanitiser available at exit doors |
| *After using toilet | Handwashing                       |

Classrooms have been modified to create as much space as possible and students are assigned to base classrooms as much as possible. Students will be distanced insofar as is practicable, with approximately 1m distancing achieved in all rooms.

Disinfectant wipes will be provided in all classrooms and where students move to a different room or desk, they will be provided with a wipe to clean their area before taking their seat. Teachers will do the same when they enter a new classroom. Students are expected to carry out this task efficiently. Specific bins will be provided in each room for the disposal of wipes, masks and any other potentially contaminated item.

### Entrance and Exit Points for Specific Classes

To facilitate students arriving and entering and exiting the grounds safely, we ask that no students be present on school grounds before 8.15am. Students can enter the school grounds through the two front gates and proceed directly to their class tutor room. Unless it is a practical room, students should enter their classroom and take their designated seat immediately.

### Key to Entrances and Exits

| Entrance                     | Exit                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Door A (All Students)</b> | Door A (All students in Green zone)  |
| <b>Door B (All Students)</b> | Door B (All Students in Yellow zone) |
|                              | Door C (All Students in Red zone)    |
|                              | Door D (All students in Blue zone)   |

### Traffic calming/Buses

We encourage as many students as possible to walk/cycle to/from school if possible. If students are availing of bus transport to school, there are new collection points for students to be collected at after school.

School mgt., Wexford County Council and Bus transport representatives recently met to address traffic congestion after school.

After school arrangements -

- Matty Cousins 3 buses will park in the bays on the Carnew Rd (students to walk up via Gaelscoil lane. (Bus only markings to be put in place by Wex. Co. Co.)
- Smaller buses will park in front of school on the far side of the road (Wex Co. Co. To change 'Car Drop Off' to 'Bus Drop Off')
- Large buses (50 seater) to park outside the school gate on the near side of the road.
- Wex. Co. Co. are to put double yellow lines on the roundabout and along one side of the entrance road.

- Wex. Co. Co. are also to paint a zebra crossing to ensure the safety of students when crossing the road to the small buses.

We would like to remind students to follow measures that the bus companies have put in place- queuing in a socially distant manner etc. We would like to encourage parents to park away from the school, if at all possible, and to get their children to walk to them. The less vehicles we have in front of the school the safer it is for everyone. Please take note that it is only cars that have a disabled parking permit that can park in the car park in front of the school.

### Eating Areas

The eating areas are divided into separate sections indoors and each year group must sit and eat in their designated zones during their allotted breaks as follows. We are encouraging students to eat outside at morning break and lunchtime as much as possible to allow breaks from their face-coverings.

| <b>Year Group</b>    | <b>Break: 10.20-10.40</b>               | <b>Lunch: 12.40 – 13.20</b>           |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year | GP Area & outside                       | GP Area & outside                     |
| TY                   | Senior Eating Area and outside          | Car Park (level 1) and outside        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Year | Car park and outside                    | Car Park/outside or Leave the school  |
| <b>Year Group</b>    | <b>Break: 11.00-11.20</b>               | <b>Lunch: 13.20 – 14.00</b>           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year | GP Area & outside                       | GP Area & outside                     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year | Senior Eating Area and outside          | Senior Eating Area and outside        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Year | Carpark and outside or Leave the school | Car park/ outside or Leave the school |

### Lunches

We ask parents to remind students to eat directly from their lunch boxes, and not to use the surface of the table to place their food on. It has been necessary to remove tables to maximise the available space. Additional seating has been provided outside. Please remind students that sharing of food is not permitted. Lunch boxes and drinks bottles should be washed thoroughly, inside and out, each day. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Year students will be allowed to leave the College grounds at lunch. These arrangements are subject to review.

### Canteen

Our canteen will remain open, however some changes are in place to avoid congestion and unnecessary contact for our students and canteen staff. The canteen will operate on a **pre-order basis** only. Orders can be placed in the morning before school from 08.15. We now have a cashless payment in operation and we request that you organised this method of payment for your child before school commences, eg Revolut card.

### Lockers

Lockers will not be available for the moment to facilitate a deep clean. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis. We envisage that once the deep clean is completed, students will have access to lockers.

## **PE**

Where possible, PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment will be confined to the sets for that class group. Classes may take additional breaks outside during the school day. Changing rooms will be closed in line with the physical distancing routine, therefore students will need to arrive in official PE uniform on the days they have PE.

Junior students should wear the official PE uniform. We encourage Senior students to wear black tracksuit bottoms and the school half-zip/school hoodies (if the students have them).

## **iPads**

Students and teachers in Creagh College were very well positioned when school closure occurred as they each had their own device and were set up with an Office 365 account. This hugely facilitated remote learning and we saw some extremely creative work being shared among our school community. None of us know if we will be facing temporary school closures again, but if we do, we would like to be ready. It is essential that all students bring their charged iPad to school daily. We will be encouraging all teachers to ensure students are set up on Microsoft Teams in the first few weeks back. Any queries relating to iPads can be sent to [creaghcollegeipadhelp@wwetb.ie](mailto:creaghcollegeipadhelp@wwetb.ie)

## **Management of iPad devices**

All junior students have paid a management fee to Wriggle to manage their devices remotely. Any student who was in Third year 2019/2020, and is moving into TY or Fifth year will need to get their device managed again by Wriggle. The school will facilitate this, but parents will need to pay €40 (for a one-year management fee for TY students) and €80 (for a two-year management fee for 5<sup>th</sup> year students). Payment for this can be made through Way2Pay (see Payment section below). Unfortunately, failure to pay this fee will result in the student's device being wiped, left in a locked state and could result in a lengthy resolution of the issue with Wriggle. This is out of the school's hands - it is a Wriggle issue and we were not forewarned of this - so we strongly encourage you to prevent this problem arising.

## **Students' Equipment and Stationery**

- Students should bring their own pens, pencils, colours etc. to school in their own pencil case to prevent the sharing of equipment.
- Students may be required to submit homework through Microsoft Teams and there will be training for this in the early stages of the school year. All Juniors have MS Teams preloaded on their iPads. Senior Students should ensure they have downloaded the MS Teams App onto their iPads before they arrive.
- **Shared Equipment**  
By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including computers and the equipment used for practical subjects. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products must be done by students before each use to minimise the risk of the spread of infection. Guidelines have issued to teachers of practical subjects to assist with this.

**Student absences:**

- Same as before, parent writes a note in the absence section of the student's journal. Student shows note to teacher in their journal at tutor time the next day.

**Disciplinary notes:**

To minimise the handling of student journals, the following procedures will be in place where there is a disciplinary issue:

- Teacher records note on VSWare in discipline drop down menu
- Class Tutor monitors notes and follows up with Year Head where appropriate
- Parent monitors their vsware account
- Parent ticks box to acknowledge note on Vsware. Further information on this will issue.

**PPE**

The Department of Education advise that face coverings should be worn by staff and students in post-primary schools where 2m social distance cannot be maintained. Creagh College is supplying all students with two reusable face masks. Students must wear a facemask where required and when asked to do so. Within our school community there are people who may have underlying health conditions or who live with family members with underlying health conditions and we must all do what is required to avoid COVID-19 coming into our community.

While students should utilise their own face covering on a day-to-day basis, the school will have available a stock of additional disposable or multi-use face coverings available in case a back-up face covering is needed throughout the day or where required on an ongoing basis. We encourage students to wear masks that they find comfortable, please ensure it is suitable and not offensive to others. Please have an adequate supply of masks for your students to facilitate washing etc.

**Learning Support**

In keeping with our special educational needs (SEN) policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class and small-group support. Initially, the focus will be primarily on welcoming the students back, giving them a chance to speak about how they feel, and establishing relationships and routines. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of the minimum amount of interaction between students.

- 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 students receive support in one of the SEN rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each student in the group. Only students from the same year group may be withdrawn together for SEN purposes
- The tables and chairs in SEN rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending. Where possible, resources in SEN settings will be stored in individual pouches for each student in order to limit sharing, and the pouches can then be wiped and sanitised.
- SNAs will continue to provide support and will wear appropriate PPE. They will bring the students outside as much as possible.

### **Sports and extra-curricular activities**

For the first couple of weeks our focus is on getting everyone back to school safely. Once we have all settled into our new routines. We will then examine which extra-curricular activities are feasible this year.

### **Ventilation**

Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces. To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible.

### **Assembly**

Whole school assemblies will not take place for the foreseeable future.

### **Payments**

We have an online payment system (WAY2PAY) that minimises the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe by arranging for online payments. In the next few days, invoices will appear on WAY2PAY for individual year groups. You will receive a text message when the WAY2PAY invoice is live.

- **First year:** €60 (already paid by parents when confirming acceptance of place in 1<sup>st</sup> year).
- **Second year:** €35 (**School services fee:** student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages)
- **Third year:** €35 (**School services fee:** student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages). *Please note that a mock exams fee will issue later in the academic year.*
- **Transition Year:**
  - €35 (**School services fee:** student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages). *(Please note that there will be additional charges during TY that we are not currently asking for in advance)*
  - €40 **Wriggle iPad management fee** for TY only. (Please note: You will need to pay €80 again next year for a two-year licence)
- **Fifth year:**
  - €35 (**School services fee:** student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages)

- €100 **book rental** for all fifth years who wish to opt-in, otherwise please purchase all books (Books have been ordered for all fifth years and will be available in school)
- €80 (for students who did 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2019/2020 - this is the **Wriggle management payment** for 2 years for fifth and sixth year)
- **LCAI**
  - €35 - (**School services fee**: student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages)
  - €80 (for students who did 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2019/2020 - this is the **Wriggle management payment** for 2 years for fifth and sixth year LCA)
  - €50 for book rental for LCA I students
- **Sixth year:**
  - €35 (**School services fee**: student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages)
  - €100 **book rental** for all sixth years who opted-in last year, otherwise please purchase all books.
  - *Please note that a mock exams fee will issue later in the academic year.*
- **LCAII**
  - €35 - (student journal, locker rental, student insurance, text messages)
  - €50 for book rental for LCA II students
  - *Please note that a mock exams fee will issue later in the academic year.*

### **Corridors**

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. Students should strictly follow the **one-way systems**, use the designated exit doors for their area, and use the toilet block designated to their year group. Students will be given details of the one way system during induction.

### **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, another member of staff will supervise the class.

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

Students should only leave the school during the school day in exceptional circumstances and this should be arranged in advance. Parents should write a note in the student's journal and this should be shown to the class tutor in the morning.

If something unforeseen arises and a parent/guardian must collect a student during the school day without a prior arrangement, the following will apply

- Only one person can be in the reception area at any one time, and they must wear a mask. Please check the number of people in the reception area before entering.
- The student will be called from their class by a member of staff.
- The parent/guardian will be asked to sign the student out.

### **Students Who Should Not Attend School**

If your son/daughter is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Students who have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Students who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Students who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Students who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Students who are generally unwell.

### **Students with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.**

We are awaiting guidance from the DES on this matter. We hope that this advice will be issued imminently. We will post this information on our school website as soon as it becomes available. When this advice issues, if you have concerns, please direct them to [creaghcollegesen@wwetb.ie](mailto:creaghcollegesen@wwetb.ie).

### **Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class**

If the school is notified that a person in your student's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- The parents of all students in the class will be notified.
- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

### **Illness and Absences**

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

Students should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a student displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately – please ensure all contact details are up to date and in use, and also provide the name and number of a contact who will be in a position to collect a student promptly. If you have changed address or phone number recently, it is imperative that you inform us [info@creaghcollege.ie](mailto:info@creaghcollege.ie).
- The student will be accompanied to the designated isolation area by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic student and will also make sure that others always maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic student

A mask will be provided for the student 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 student who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents who can then call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home.
- The school will facilitate the student presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- The student presenting with symptoms will 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 student 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 student is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

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

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

We are not qualified to make a distinction between Covid 19 symptoms and symptoms of other illnesses. Be prepared. Make arrangements for your student to be collected in the event of a phone call.

#### **First Year/new student specific questions:**

We have a booklet prepared for first year parents and students. Please read the booklet which is available on our website.

<https://creaghcollege.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Parent-Info-Booklet-2020.pdf>

#### **FAQs**

**Can I send in a bottle of sanitiser with my student?** Yes, but please remind your student it is for personal use and it may only be used with the permission of the teacher. There will be sufficient quantities of sanitiser throughout the school.

**Must my child wear a facemask?** Staff and students are required to wear face covering where a physical distance of 2 m cannot be maintained. In our school this will be for a significant part of the school day.

**Will parent/teacher meetings be taking place?** We are awaiting further guidance on this.

**What if I need to speak with my student's teacher?** Please contact the school office or your student's teacher via email.

**What happens if my student forgets their lunch or drinks or other items?** Please do not arrive at the school and ask to give items to your child. If your child has forgotten Home – Economics ingredients for example, they will not be allowed to participate in the practical that day.

**My student has hay fever and sneezes quite a bit, will he/she be sent home?** If your student has an underlying condition such as hay fever (as many of us have) please make sure the class teacher is aware.

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

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

**What if my son/daughter is sent home with a suspected case of Covid 19?** We would advise that you contact your GP/HSE for further advice. If your son/daughter is unwell, they should under no circumstances be sent back to school. Parents should keep their son/daughter at home until they have been clear of the symptoms for 48 hours.

**Are parents permitted in the school building?** No, not unless collecting a student presenting with Covid 19 symptoms or have received prior permission and have been invited in from the reception area/front door.

**My son/daughter is in a base class with some other students, can they still interact with their other friends at break time?** Yes, absolutely, students can still chat with students in other classes or year groups as long as they keep the distance from other students.

**How will physical distance work in classrooms?** At the start of the school year we will be distancing students as much as possible, with 1m between all students in all classrooms. This will not eliminate students from interacting with each other or prevent talk and discussion.

**What happens if my son/daughter is injured while at school?** Our first aid policy will be followed, but staff are required to wear PPE to apply first aid.

**Why can some of the classes not mix? They are playing soccer/GAA together anyway!** That may be the case for some of the students, but our procedures are governed by Dept. of Education and Skills guidelines, which state that every effort must be made to limit the amount of contact between classes. We do not adhere to the guidelines of other sporting /social organisations.

**Will teachers talk to the students about Covid 19?** Yes, from day one we will be re-teaching cough etiquette, hand hygiene, reinforcing the idea of social distancing/reduced physical contact, and chatting about Covid 19. The aim will be on reassurance and promoting calmness and safety.

**Will the students wear their uniform?** Yes, it is business as normal in relation to uniform. There is no guidance from the Department of Education or HSPC to the contrary. On days your child has PE, they should wear their PE uniform as the changing facilities are not in use at the moment.

**Will the school be cleaned each day?** Yes, and commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. Both staff and students will be responsible for cleaning their own work area each time they move to a new location.

**What will be the most difficult issue for schools and parents?** When students display symptoms of Covid 19. We will have to ring you and you will have to come and collect your child immediately. Your child will have to be brought to the isolation area. These are the government guidelines. We are not qualified to make a distinction between Covid 19 symptoms and symptoms of other illnesses. Be prepared. Make arrangements for your student to be collected in the event of a phone call.

**Will this document be updated?** Yes. It is an evolving situation and we will be constantly reviewing our procedures and may need to change elements of it when we observe it in practice. We will also be guided by current Public Health and DES advice.

**Date: 27 August 2020**