



26 August 2021.

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s) and Student(s)

Hope you are all keeping well. We are looking forward to meeting our **new 1st year students tomorrow at 9.30am.**

I want to inform you of the following in relation to Public health advice for our students.

Timetable for the return to school

Date	Year Groups in School
Friday Aug 27th	1 st Year
Monday Aug 30th	1 st Year
Tuesday Aug 31st	1 st and 6 th Years
Wednesday sept 1	All year groups

Timetable for the return to school of our Special ASD classes

Date	Year Groups in School
Thursday Aug 26th	2 nd 3 rd , 5 th , 6 th Year
Friday Aug 27th	1 st Year
Monday Aug 30th	1 st Year
Tuesday Aug 31st	1 st and 6 th Years
Wednesday sept 1	All year groups

- **PPE**

All students must wear face masks unless there is a medical reason to not do so. This must be supported by a letter from a doctor.

I ask that all students wear **plain coloured** face masks. They can be disposable or reusable.

I recommend that each student has a plastic bag to put the mask into when not in use. For example while eating lunch.

On return to school students will be provided with training on:

- How to use a face mask correctly.
- How to sanitise your hands correctly.
- How to wash your hands correctly.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette.

- **It is very important that all students observe this crucial guidance for each other's safety.**
- Because we will all be wearing face coverings, each 1st year student will be given a name badge on their first day at school and must wear it each day. It will be regarded as part of the school uniform.
- All students are expected to wear the full uniform. As usual we advise that you have more than one shirt and change it every day. Regular washing of the whole uniform is advised.
- **Classrooms**
Each year group will be assigned a zone in the school and each class will be assigned a base classroom. Movement will be kept to a minimum but will take place for the optional and practical subjects.
- **Lunchtime**
All students will remain on the school campus for the entire school day.
- **Staggered break and lunchtimes**
To assist with the social distance guidelines, there will be a common break time at 11am and two lunchtimes, with different year groups in each one.
- **School canteen**
Get Fresh Catering, the company who run the school canteen will not be in operation until later in September. In the meantime students must bring in their own lunches.
- **Hand Sanitisers**
There are hand sanitisers in every classroom, at all entrances and around the school. Please use on entry and exit.
- **Toilets**
Each Year group has access to their own block of toilets. The assigned block are the only toilets that should be used by an individual year group.
- Advice issued to schools, is that water filters be disconnected. Therefore students will need to bring in their own water.
- **Homework**
 - Homework will be assigned and submitted through Google classroom for all year groups. Copies while they may be used during class cannot be collected by the teachers.
 - We ask all students with iPads **not** to bring text books to school as their eBooks are on their iPad.
 - As advised in the letter in June, A4 Hard copies are not required, use A4 soft cover copies instead.
- **Lockers**
Students will have no access to lockers at any time due to social distance guidelines at the present time.
- **How to Minimise the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into schools:**
(From our Covid Response Plan)

Promote awareness of COVID-19 symptoms

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

Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe, and, in some

cases, can be fatal. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- 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 free COVID-19 test.

Getting an early diagnosis means, you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

For the complete list of symptoms, please refer to the HSE Website. If you do not have symptoms, you can get a free COVID-19 (coronavirus) test at a COVID-19 walk-in test centre

- If students have symptoms do **not** to attend school, phone your doctor and follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- Students should not attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as a contact for a person with COVID-19 and should follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- Students that develop symptoms at school will be brought to the attention of the principal (or deputy principal if the principal is unavailable) promptly;. They will be brought to the Isolation room and the parent/guardian will be contacted. It will be expected that the students will be collected as soon as possible and preferably within 30 minutes.
- Everyone entering the school building needs to perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser;
- Visitors to the school during the day should be by **prior arrangement with the principal** and will be received at the entrance porch. Mask must be worn by all visitors and Contact Log signed at the reception desk.
- Physical distancing of 2 metres should be maintained between staff and visitors where possible.

➤ **Respiratory Hygiene for students**

Students must practice good respiratory hygiene. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin. Then sanitise your hands immediately

➤ **Students should perform hand hygiene:**

- On arrival at school;
- When exiting the school;
- Before eating or drinking;
- After using the toilet;
- After playing outdoors;
- When their hands are physically dirty;
- When they cough or sneeze.

Sanitising stations are located at entry and exits points to the building.

In addition, there is a hand sanitising unit in each classroom and around the school.

➤ **Access to School**

Parents/Guardians are discouraged from dropping off items for students. You will not have access to the school building for such purposes.

- **Parents/Guardians who are collecting their daughter/son for appointments will be required to contact the school on arrival at the [School door by phonecall \(090 6432267\)](tel:0906432267). A reminder sign is in place at the door. The student will then meet their parent/guardian at the **Entrance Porch**.**

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Donohue
Principal
