

SHRAIGH NATIONAL SCHOOL

COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

(Details of the operational measures this school is putting in place with regards to the safe and sustainable reopening of the building on the 27th August 2020and updated on 26th February 2021).

N.B.

- This plan may be updated /amended under the following circumstances:
 - Should there be a change in Departmental Guidelines.
 - Should staff members find improved methods of operation / staff members feeling it is necessary to update the plan for any reason.
- Staff will undergo training as per Departmental Guidelines before returning to work.
- A RTW form should be completed and returned to the school before returning to work. The school requests staff (verbally or in writing) to confirm that the details in the pre-return to work form remain unchanged following subsequent periods of closure such as school holidays.
- **The responsibility to keep our school free from Covid-19 is a community based responsibility, not just a school based responsibility . Therefore we need co-operation and patience as we put new measures in place to protect everyone!**

Section 1: Hygiene

- The school will be cleaned thoroughly before reopening.
- The extra cleaning grant will be used to clean the school daily.

-Hand sanitisation units are to be found in the office, all classrooms, toilets, playground, portacabin and close to the two exits.

- Alcohol-based sanitiser will not be stored or used near heat or naked flame

-Regular hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day using the liquid soaps provided, especially after activities which are likely to soil hands eg. playing outside/ certain sports activities, as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands.

-Regular hand sanitisation will be encouraged.

-Teachers will be responsible for keeping their own work spaces clean.

-Items which are passed from child to child will be wiped clean eg. iPads.

-The sharing of personal items (e.g. pencils, rulers, books, lunches, copies etc.) will be discouraged.

-Posters providing information on Covid-19 symptoms, hand hygiene and cough etiquette will be on display.

-One piece plastic chairs have been purchased for the pupils as they are more hygienic and can be easily cleaned.

Section 2: Distancing

-Ventilation

The Department has published guidance setting out the practical steps for good ventilation in accordance with public health advice 'Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools' The guidance sets out an overall approach for schools that windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. The guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather.

-All pupils will be expected to stay within their "class bubbles" insofar as is reasonably possible.

-Pupils will play in separate areas of the playground – the junior room will play at the front of the school and in the fenced play area, while the seniors will play on the basketball court and soccer area.

-The junior classes will use the toilets beside the office while the senior classes will use those close to their classroom. Therefore, each set of toilets will have one cubicle available for girls and one available for boys.

-Insofar as is possible, the junior pupils will enter and exit through the school door nearest their classroom and the senior pupils will use the main door. This is weather dependant.

-Floor markings are on display in the hallway to encourage social distancing.

-Although physical distancing is not a requirement in the junior room, all pupils will be seated one metre apart.

-Teachers will endeavour to maintain a one metre distance from each other / pupils / visitors.

-Visitors will be minimised and will be by appointment only.

-All parents and visitors must complete the visitors' log placed in the hall.

-Use of the library area will be curtailed – teachers will bring a variety of book into their classrooms from which pupils may choose reading material.

-On wet days, pupils' break-time activities will be curtailed to their own classrooms. The hall area will not be used.

Section 3: Suspect Cases

-School staff are encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contract tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

-Staff and pupils are advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test.

- Staff Duties

- Not to return to or attend school in the event of the following:
 - If they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid -19.
 - If they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
 - If they have travelled outside of Ireland; in such instances staff are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- Cooperate with any public health personnel and their school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice given in the event of a case or outbreak in their school.
- Undergo any COVID-19 testing that may be required in their school as part of mass or serial testing as advised by Public Health.

-We will operate a policy of prompt identification and isolation: If a student displays symptoms of Covid-19 he/she will be removed from the classroom and isolated in the library area under the supervision of his/her class teacher. The other teacher will supervise both classrooms and will phone parents.

Section 4: Policy Updates and Necessary Paperwork

-Covid-19 policy.

-Risk assessment (updated)

-Return To Work form (staff)

- Return to Educational Setting form (Pupils)

-Visitors log.

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