

Policy for Re-Opening the School

Preface

The policy was devised to help teachers, Board of Management and parents understand the school's approach to re-opening.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Department Roadmap to re-opening schools which is available at education.ie

Before the school re-opens the building will be checked for health and safety issues including testing of the water system, servicing of all alarms, tidying up of the school site, any minor repairs etc.

Aims

1. To reduce the risk of Covid-19
2. To help children settle back to school
3. Outline of the Learning Curriculum
4. Plans for Remote Learning
5. If your child is sent home sick, they must be symptom free, before they return
6. The steps to be taken if a case or suspected case of Covid 19 occurs in the school
7. Outline the method of communication with the school community

Approach

1. To reduce the risk of Covid-19

The risk cannot be eradicated but it can be reduced.

Staff

- All staff will complete the Department's on line Covid 19 training
- Ms. Shannon has been appointed as the Covid response Staff lead.
- All staff will complete an RTW form three day before the school re-opens.

Illness

- Any member of staff, pupil or parent who is ill should remain at home and call their GP for advice.
- Any ill child or member of staff will be sent home. Any child who a staff member believes to be ill will be sent home. All parents must have arrangements in place for a sick child to be collected from the school promptly.
- The school is part of the national substitute plan. In the case of a teacher being sick the guidelines set out in circular 0045/2020 will be followed.

Hygiene

- Pupils and staff will be reminded to wash their hands often using soap or hand sanitiser coming to school, coming in from the yard, after using the toilet and before going home. Soap and hand sanitiser will be provided throughout the school.
- Pupils are not required to wear face coverings but may wear them if desired.
- Where 2 m social distancing is not able to be observed by staff in their class bubble, PPE must be worn e.g. first aid, SNA or teacher providing assistance to pupils, SET etc. PPE will be available in the isolation room, staff room and the office.
- A new cleaning regime will be put in place including during and after school cleaning and disinfection of toys/equipment.
- Equipment will not be shared amongst children where possible: scissors, paint brushes, pencils, crayons, books etc.
- Children's books and equipment will be stored in their personal tray.
- Cleaning materials will be provided to each member of staff to keep his/her work area sanitised.
- All staff should use their own utensils etc. and/or place in dishwasher after use.
- Only one person is allowed into the small staffroom at the time.

Social Distancing

- All staff meetings will be held in our large GP hall where 2m distance can be observed between all teachers. Parent teacher meetings will be done remotely on the telephone or using Zoom.
- No parent or visitor will be allowed in the school building except in an emergency.
- The school will not be available to groups outside school hours.
- No afterschool activities will take place until further notice.
- Children will stay in their class bubble and within their pod in that bubble and will not mix with other class groups.
- PE will take place outside.
- The hall will not be in use for any curricular activities.
- 6 people max are allowed in the GP room practising social distancing, where our new staff room / canteen will be.
- Accessibility to photocopiers x 2 will also be in the GP hall.
- Classrooms will be laid out allowing for 1m social distance in Rang 3-6. Pods will operate in all classes. The teacher will select children for each pod. Children may play with any child from their class in the yard observing social distance as far as is practical.
- The yard will be divided into three zones. One class group will play in each zone.

- Infants will play in the Infant Yard. 1st/2nd will play in the basketball court. 3rd/4th will play in the Infant Yard. 5th/6th will play in the basketball court.

Break times will be as follows:

Infants – 2 nd class	Small break	10:40 – 10:50 am
	Big break	12:15 – 12:45 pm
3 rd – 6 th	Small break	10:50 – 11:00 am
	Big break	12:45 – 1:15 pm

Coming to School: School gates will open at 8.45 am and close at 9.10 am.

Mainstream

Blessington Bus Children:	8.40 am
Children with Surnames A – H:	8.45 am – 8.55 am
Children with Surnames J – Z:	8.55 am – 9.05 am

ASD Unit

Buses will arrive at	9.10 am
Parents who are dropping off a child:	9.10 am

Naíonra

9 am

Leaving School:

Mainstream

Blessington Bus Children:	2.15 pm
5 th /6 th :	2.15 pm
3 rd /4 th :	2.20 pm
1 st /2 nd :	2.25 pm
Infants:	1.30 pm
Jl for the month September	12.00 noon

ASD Unit

EI (Bus)	12.30 pm
Jl (Bus) for the month September	12.30 pm
Infants (Bus)	1.20 pm
1 st – 6 th (Bus)	2.15 pm
Parents who are collecting:	same finish time as above

Naíonra

12 noon or 12.30 pm (if requested) through the main reception door

Information

- Posters will be placed around the school displaying information about Covid 19 and its symptoms. Also signage will be placed at priority spots around the school encouraging physical distancing.

2. To help children settle back to school

- On Tuesday the 25th in the morning the new Junior Infant parents will be asked to come into the school with their children wearing masks and socially distanced affording them the opportunity to see their new classroom and to take pictures. Parents may enter the school on this day. After that no parents may pass beyond the school gate in the morning. (except in an emergency or sickness/injury.)
- Emphasis will be placed on creating an enjoyable calming atmosphere using music, art and circle time (socially distanced)
- The school community understands that it will take children some time to settle in and that some children may display inappropriate behaviour. Our behaviour policy will be used to respond to these occurrences but we hope that all teachers, SNAs, pupils and parents will adopt an understanding supportive approach.
- If necessary, help and support will be sought from NEPS and/or other agencies and our cigire John Mescall.

3. Outline of Learning Curriculum

- All teachers will be aware of the guidelines set out in the Department's Return to School Curriculum guidelines.
- There will be no testing until 7 September.
- There will be no homework until 7 September
- Emphasis will be placed on literacy, maths, PE and SPHE for the first month.
- If a substitute teacher is in a class, the substitute will follow the teacher's fortnightly plan.

4. Plans for Remote Learning

- Two SET Teacher's will be in charge of providing school work for children who are learning at home because of the crisis for periods of time longer than a week.
- The class teacher will provide work if requested for children who are learning at home for less than a week.

- If the school closes or a class must work from home, parents will be informed through the school text and email. It is of vital importance that all parents check the school website in such an event for updates.
- In the event of a school closure, children will be provided with work for three days and will be given their own school books etc. to take home.
- Remote Learning will be provided through Seesaw and Zoom as directed by our patron and the department. Teachers will make daily contact with children.
- Teachers will facilitate further proficiency in using Seesaw by providing tasks to children using the platform on a weekly basis whilst the school is operating normally.

5. If your child is sent home sick, they must be symptom free, before they return.

6. The steps to be taken if a case or suspected case of Covid 19 occurs in the school

- If your child is absent from school because of illness, Parents should email the school to let us know. Parents should not telephone the school for non- notifiable illnesses from now on.
- If a Covid 19 test is recommended for a child or a child is identified as a close contact parents need to keep their child at home and contact the school.
- If a child tests positive for Covid 19, parents should call the school as soon as possible or outside school hours text 087 1724026 and you will be called back. A member of staff who tests positive should also do the same. Please give the contact number of the school (045 865086) and outside school hours (087 1724026) to the HSE if required.
- The advice of the HSE will be followed in relation to a case of Covid 19 in the school. School Management have no input into decisions made by the HSE in these situations.
- Please furnish us with a letter declaring that your child has tested negative, before returning to school. The same procedure as above applies to any staff member presenting as positive.
- In the event of a child or member of staff displaying Covid 19 symptoms or if a staff member believes a child is displaying Covid 19 symptoms, the person will be asked to wear a mask and will be brought to the isolation room. The isolation room in our school is the room beside Ms. Finan's room. All teachers will have a key for this room.
- Immediate arrangements will be made for the person to be brought home by calling parents or if required the HSE or the ambulance service (999) (In circumstances where the child/staff member is displaying extreme symptoms.

- All parents need to have an emergency plan in place in the event of a child becoming ill during school hours. This plan is to be provided to the school before the school re-opens. School staff must also provide a copy of their RTW Form and must complete the training induction provided for by the D.E.S.
- The isolation room, route to the isolation room and classroom will be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after a suspected Covid 19 case.

7. Outline the method of communication with the school community

- A copy of the policy will be available at www.lackenns.com
- All members of the school community are encouraged to read the guidelines for re-opening available at www.education.ie
- Any information or correspondence from the department of Education for parents will be distributed through e mail.
- Unfortunately, the school office cannot answer any concerns or worries parents have in relation to the school bus.

Ratification

The Board discussed, consulted and ratified this policy on 19th August 2020.

This policy will be reviewed in December 2020.