

# Plan for Re-opening of St Fintan's NS Mayglass

## 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
- The school is split into 5 class bubbles with each bubble having different zones/areas in the yard as well as their own separate lining up area and assigned exits and entrances
- Groups will be constituted of Junior and Senior Infants, First class, second and third class, fourth class, fifth and sixth class. (Fifth class will be in the fourth class bubble for the month of September)
- The day will include a 15 minute break at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes for lunch from 12:45 – 1:15
- 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
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms

## Timetables

<b>Staggered dismissal times</b>	
<b>Junior and Senior Infants</b>	<b>2pm</b>
<b>Pupils with surname A - F</b>	<b>2:45</b>
<b>Pupils with surname G - O</b>	<b>2: 55</b>
<b>Pupils with surname R - W</b>	<b>3:05</b>
<b>Bus pupils</b>	<b>2:45</b>

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## Key to Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Main Entrance at front of school	1
Entrance to yard at new corridor	2
Ms. Druhan's door	3
Ms. Mooney's door	4
Door out of office	5
Door at Mr. Day's room	6
Door at Ms. Breen's room	7

## Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point
Ms. M	Jun Inf	4
Ms. M	Sen Inf	4
Ms. D	1 <sup>st</sup>	3
Ms. W	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
Ms. B	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	7
Mr. D	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	6

## Arrival at school

School begins at 9:20 for all students. No Pupils will be permitted to arrive at school before 9:10. Special provisions will be made for bus pupils. Between 9:10 and 9:20 pupils will wait in their specified areas.

- Each class should line up at their designated point with social distancing observed.
- The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, SeeSaw or by phoning the school office.

## End of School Day

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait at the front of the school and remain in the car if possible. Parents are asked to leave the car park promptly on collection of their child/children.
- When the school day is over the following arrangements will apply –
  - Pupils will be released from their class beginning with pupils with surnames from A – F at the appropriate time. Pupils will use their assigned exit and make their way promptly to their parents. If a parent is late that pupil will be asked to wait in the assigned waiting zone.

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- A teacher will be supervising the pupils as they exit the building and make their way to their parents.

Please ensure that your child has adequate rain gear as on rainy days we are no longer able to permit children to wait inside for collection.

## 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 (053 9135279 or 086 8392775) or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office 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
- 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
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff. 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 mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if one is available. 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 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.
- 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. **It is parents' responsibility to ensure that they or an emergency contact are available at all times.**
- 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

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- 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, the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will create suggested list of activities to support the child's learning at home and this responsibility will be shared with parents.

## 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 children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class 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.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name.

## Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

## Yards

Each class bubble will be assigned their own area in the yard and they will be asked to play in this area during break times to minimise contact with pupils from other class bubbles

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNAs and our classroom assistant/secretary.

## Learning Support

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of a bubble.

- 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 children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.

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- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending

### **PPE**

Teachers may wear visors in the classroom particularly during activities where maintaining social distancing may be difficult.

### **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 not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

### **PE**

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and use of equipment should be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points should be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day.