



Covid 19 School Procedures 2021-2022 **(To be reviewed monthly)**

Classrooms:

All year groups will be located in specific areas/corridors and students will be assigned to a base classroom where they will spend most of their time. If students need to move for subjects it will generally be within that area/corridor with the exception of specialist/practical subjects.

Hand Hygiene:

All rooms for practical subjects will have sinks and soap dispensers where students can wash their hands. Hand sanitising dispensers are also present at all entry/exit points within the school, in various areas around the school buildings and in all classrooms. There is warm water and soap dispensers in the main bathroom areas. Hand washing sinks have also been installed in areas outside the school building itself.

Layout:

Classrooms have been equipped with single desks and very minimal furniture to allow for the optimum use of space for social distancing. Alterations have also been made to windows for greater ventilation.

Face coverings:

Face coverings are required in all classrooms, when entering the school and when moving between classes and around the school in general. Students are expected to arrive at school equipped with a face mask (several spare masks) and anti bacterial wipes.

PPE requirements:

We would ask that students wear their face coverings each day. Should students wish to wear both a mask and a visor they may do so. Students will be required to bring a pack of antibacterial wipes with them to school each day and will be asked to wipe down their desk at the beginning of each lesson. They should also sanitise their hands using the dispenser in the classroom.

Lockers and books/stationery:

Students will not have a locker initially and are asked to keep all text books at home. This is to optimise corridor space and to alleviate congregational areas. Students need only bring for example, a copy/hardback or handout for each subject. This will vary depending on the subject and teachers will advise students on what is needed. We will continue to review this. Students are not permitted to share school items so care is needed when packing school bags each evening.

Breaktime/lunchtime:

In order to minimise the number of students in the corridors, using bathrooms and around the school at any one time we will be staggering breaks between junior and senior year groups. Lunch Break is 40 mins to allow for staggering. This will be explained to all students in detail at their induction.

Morning Break: 10:10-10:25 - TY, 5th & 6th Yrs
10:50-11:05 - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Yrs

**Lunch Break : 12:25-1:05- TY, 5th & 6th Yrs
1:05-1:45- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Yrs**

Canteen:

The canteen will not be open as the queuing needed does not allow for appropriate distancing. Students may either bring their own lunch or purchase it off site (senior students only). **Please be reminded that single use plastic water bottles are not permitted** and we ask that students do not share drinking receptacles. **1st, 2nd & 3rd year students are not permitted to leave the premises at lunchtime.** Students are however, permitted to go home for lunch but this must be confirmed in writing.

Leaving/entering the school:

In the interests of both health and safety and maximising teaching and learning we would ask where possible, that students minimise the necessity to arrive or leave the building outside of school hours. **Any parents/guardians who wish to speak with a teacher, year head, Deputy Principal or Principal are asked to ring the school in advance and make an appointment. Anyone who is entering the building for a pre-arranged meeting is required to wear a face covering.**

If a student forgets items which may be urgently needed during the day, we would ask that an arrangement is made to collect those items outside the school. This should be done through the school office and only if necessary. **Please remember that students are not permitted to use their mobile phones (on safety & child protection grounds)** for this purpose.

Each year group has been assigned a specific entrance/exit area (which should be used from day 1 of their return) and they will be using this each morning, breaktime, lunchtime and evening time. They will also have their own yard area for small breaks and lunchtime. Students will be informed of which areas to use at their induction.

1st Yrs: Enter & exit via the **staff car park** and staff door.

2nd Yrs: Enter & exit via the **front door** as normal and remain downstairs in allocated rooms.

3rd Yrs: Enter & exit via **front door** and use the main stairs to go upstairs to allocated rooms.

TY: Enter & exit via the **staff car park** and staff door.

5th Yr: Enter & exit through the **Art Room** door up the backstairs to allocated rooms.

6th Yr: Enter & exit through the **Old Building**.

The Hub: Enter through Mr.O’Gormans room.

PE:

Students should wear their PE clothes on the day that they are timetabled to have PE. The changing rooms will not be in use until further direction from the Department of Education.

Curriculum:

Overall, the curricular requirements within the various subject areas to date have not changed hugely but changes will be made to the exam papers themselves for the 2022 Leaving and Junior Certificate. The number of CBAs for Junior Cycle has also changed. Teachers will advise students as information becomes available. Further information on this can be found on education.ie

Uniform:

Students will continue to wear their school uniform as usual. Please refer to summer correspondence which outlines the uniform exactly.

Wellbeing:

As students return to school, their prolonged absence will have impacted their learning, wellbeing and overall connection to school. 'Back to School' lessons will be provided to all students within their SPHE and Wellbeing classes to help them to reconnect with school and each other and will enable them to reflect upon the impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing and their learning. There will also be opportunities afforded to students to avail of movement and mask breaks within subject areas.

Key Points for Parents/Guardians

- Parents/guardians should not bring their children to school if the child has symptoms of a viral respiratory infection or if there is someone in the household suspected or known to have Covid-19.
- Parents are not to bring their child to school if they have been identified as Covid-19 contacts unless they are fully vaccinated.
- Parents are to ensure students (as appropriate) are aware of the reason why they should not attend school if they have respiratory symptoms.
- Parents are to ensure students are aware that if they develop signs or symptoms when at school they should let their teacher know. It is unlikely to be practical to ask pupils to declare that they are symptom free on arrival at school; however, parents should be advised that the school reserves the right to decline entry to pupils who appear to have a fever or respiratory tract infection.
- **It is vital that parents ensure that they have given up to date contact numbers so that they can be contacted to collect pupils from school in the event of illness.**
- Once we are back in school, the most up to date guidelines around travel will also apply to school. If you travel to a country that requires quarantine after your visit there, your child will have to stay home from school for the designated period and please inform the school.

Please read carefully with your son prior to him returning to school