

KINVARA NATIONAL SCHOOL'S COVID RESPONSE PLAN

March 2021

This is a living document and will be changed as circumstances require.

We are delighted to welcome back the pupils from Junior Infants - 2nd class on March 1st and those in 3rd - 6th on March 15th.

We are very keen that once we get back to school that we can stay back and this will depend on your, and your child's, adherence to the guidelines issued by the HSE.

Anxious / Ill children:

If your child is displaying anxiety and needs particular attention, please send me an email so that I can alert her class teacher. Also, if your child's health, or that of a close family member, places her in a high-risk category **please contact me in confidence** principal@kinvarans.ie

Procedures for dealing with a child/staff member with Covid-like symptoms: If a child feels ill in school, regardless of symptoms, parents will be contacted and asked to take their child home. He/she will be brought to an isolation area beside the offices. He/she will be required to wear a mask – as will the person who is supervising the pupil. Their temperature will be taken. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and will be asked to collect the sick person immediately. They will be advised to contact their GP for advice. If the doctor advises that they should be tested for Covid-19 they should isolate until test results are received. If the result is negative, parents/guardians will be asked to sign a form confirming that. If a pupil is tested for Covid 19, on medical advice, they will have to stay at home until the result of this test is declared to be negative. If the test is positive the pupil must stay at home for 10 days. HSE advice will be sought to determine who else, in their class/pod, needs to be tested and parents will be advised accordingly – keeping details of the children in question confidential. If your son/daughter is deemed to be a close contact of a positive case he/she will have to stay at home for 14 days.

Once the child/staff member has been brought home from the Isolation Room this room will be sanitised before any other person is allowed to use it.

Children with asthma: The HSE advises that if the child is having an asthma flare-up that doesn't get better with treatment, he/she should get care as she would have done before the pandemic. However, common sense must prevail and if the cough is the same as always and the parent doesn't believe that the child represents a particular infection risk to other children or to staff then the child should be allowed to attend school.

No parents in school building: Parents are not permitted to enter the school so it is very important that the pupils are reminded of this. Each child should enter via the gate that they have been assigned. Pupils may make her own way to their classrooms on wet days. Parents will be asked to drop their child off at the school gate (whichever gate is closest to their drop off point) and point your child in the right direction. If at all possible please arrange to drop off/meet your child away from the school grounds. It is very important that all those involved in the drop off / collection of the children should ensure that they observe

social distancing. **Please do not congregate near the school.** We ask everyone to practise social distancing. Even if it is raining the drop off areas and times will remain the same – so please ensure that your child has appropriate rain gear. Please try to move along as quickly as possible at drop off times as spaces are limited. There is no need for parents to wait until their child has entered the second gates as they are supervised upon entering the school grounds.

Early collection: If a child needs to be collected early for any reason, the parent/guardian must advise the school in advance. This can be done using your Aladdin app or by phoning the school on 091638171.

Classroom Organisation: The classrooms will be the same as they were before Christmas.

Pods / Bubbles: The children will be reminded about how to wash their hands properly, how to keep within their classroom bubbles and how to socially distance. Unfortunately, they will not be allowed to play with children outside their bubble. In 3rd – 6th they will be put in pods (Working Groups) in their classroom but their class will be a bubble. The children in each bubble will be able to play together outside – while social distancing. **Outdoor playtime:** Each class (bubble) will play in a designated area in the Astro / yard. They will be given 15 minutes outdoor break and 25 minutes outdoor playtime to allow time to ventilate the classrooms. **Windows and doors will be open for as long as possible to increase the ventilation so please ensure that your son or daughter is wearing lots of layers.**

Hand Sanitiser: All classes will have a hand sanitizer at their classroom door as well as having access to their classroom sink and soap. The pupils will be required to wash/sanitise their hands on arrival in school, before eating, after outdoor play and after PE..

Class equipment: Each child should have a pencil case, drinks bottle and lunch box that are easily wiped clean. They must be clearly labelled as any lost property that is not labelled will be discarded. Your child should be able to open and close lunchboxes and drinks bottles themselves. Equally they should not be given any food that she cannot open on their own..

Please remind your child how to wash their hands properly. Remember that sanitiser only works on visibly clean hands. Dirty hands should be washed with soap and water. A child friendly video is available on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDjcJ-fSUgg>

Forgotten items: In the event that your child forgets something at home and you wish to bring it in, there will be a box left in the school foyer in front of the school for such items. Please ensure that they are properly labelled. This box will be emptied periodically during the day.

Covid 19 Return to School form: Before returning to school you will be obliged to complete a form for each child indicating that they, or no member of their immediate family, currently has symptoms of Covid 19, that they are not currently isolating, and that they have not been outside the country since March 1st. This form will be available on Aladdin Connect. **If your child is in Junior Infants - 2nd you only need to complete this if your child has been absent.** Please do not complete it before Sunday 14th March. If we have not received a form your child cannot be admitted to school on March 15th. Obviously, if your child develops Covid-like symptoms after sending in the form, please do not send him/her into school. If your child has travelled out of the country since March 1st, please ensure that they have been isolating for 14 days.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.

We managed to avoid any Covid cases in school in Term 1 and would like this record to continue. Please be vigilant and ensure that you err on the side of caution - if your child is showing any symptoms of Covid or if they have been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case **please keep them at home.**

Uniform: Pupils may continue to wear either their uniform or their tracksuit – whichever suits you. However, it must be one of these – they cannot wear their ordinary clothes.

Lunch boxes / drinks bottles: These MUST be labelled as any unlabelled bottles will have to be thrown out. There will be no Lost Property in the school. Labelled items will be returned.

Revised by Gearoid Nalam LWR Lead Worker Representative.in consultation with Dominic Gallagher. Principal.

March 2021

Chairperson: *Brian Connolly*