

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

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.

Organisation

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system – this means each class is a bubble and will not mix with other classes at any time.
- The day will include 1 x 15 min break and 1x 25 min lunch for each pupil as usual.
- From Junior Infants to 2nd class the children will sit in pods (groups) of 4 to 6 pupils. Each pod will be kept 1 meter apart. Children can mix with their full class once they are outdoors; break, P.E outdoors etc.
- Children from 3rd to 6th will sit 1 meter apart.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry points to the School. Hand sanitizer will be available and in all classrooms and Support Rooms

Before Arrival at school

- Please make sure your child's hands are thoroughly washed each morning before leaving the house.
- Teachers are aware for the importance of good hand hygiene for all. They will ensure the regular cleaning of hands or use of sanitizer.

Arrival at school

- We operate a drop and go arrival policy. Ideally parents will leave their children at the school gate each morning. At the start of the year this is not possible for Junior Infants so parents can walk their child to their line and then leave the school grounds immediately. Parents of Junior Infants have been informed of the procedures and protocols.
- The school yard is supervised from 8:50am and we are asking that children not be in the yard before this time.
- Each pupil should aim to arrive at the school as close to their start time as possible and go straight to their dedicated class section. Pupils can no longer congregate and mix together before school so we are asking parents to not have them in the yard too early.

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

- 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 to info@kinvarans.ie, by phoning the school office 091 638171, in the journal or in a way communicated to you by the class teacher.
- Please make sure your child has their lunch with them on arrival at school to minimise parents coming to the school.

Wet Mornings

- The school will open at 8:50 am **on wet mornings** and children will go directly to their classes where they will be supervised by staff. Parents should not enter the school building.

End of School Day

- Junior and Senior Infants @1.50pm

Parents/Guardians are invited to line up outside school boundary wall only (not gates) observing social distancing.

Ms Lahart's Class will exit through Middle Gate

Ms Walsh's Class through Main Gate

Ms Joyce's Class through Middle Gate

Ms Shalloo's Class through Main Gate

First to Sixth Classes

1st to 6th class parents wait outside the school wall and teachers will leave their classes go at the bell. Parents are asked to use their own judgement and discretion when it comes to social distancing at collection time.

The following classes will exit through **Main Gate**. Each Class will have a their own line

Miss McGrath

Mrs. Kelly

Ms Ryan

Ms Smith

Ms Burns.

The following Classes will exit through the **Car Park**

Ms Purcell

Mr Nolan

Ms Gallagher

Ms Meere

Ms Harrison's Class will exit through **Middle Gate**

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

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 (091638171) or use the intercom at the front door** of the school to alert the office that they have arrived. No non- member of staff may enter the school or call to a child's classroom directly.
- 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

Meeting a Teacher

The new restrictions do not lessen the importance of parent-teacher communication. Any messages you wish to give a teacher can be done by a note in the journal or via a means provided by the class teacher. Any meeting, no matter how brief must be organised in advance.

Parents can no longer wait to speak to a teacher before or after school.

Once a meeting is confirmed it will be held remotely or in person with adherence to all social distancing protocols.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature – 38 degrees
- Cough – any type
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

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, while ensuring the child is cared for properly.
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. 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

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

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. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- Siblings of the child with the suspected case of Covid 19 must be collected at the same time as the child themselves.
- Please note siblings of the child awaiting test results will not be permitted to attend school until the negative test result is confirmed.
- 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 (until instructed to return by the GP)
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- 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 (because of doctors' instructions), the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home.

Personal Equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from Junior Infants to 6th 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.

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.

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

Yards

Each class will have a designated space in the yard and they can freely mix with their own class. Each class will have a 15min break and 25 min lunch outside each day. They will be supervised by teachers and SNAs support individual children.

Wet Days

Children will remain in their bubbles (class) and pods (groups) and adhere to social distancing in class while being supervised by teachers walking the corridors and SNAs in the rooms.

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 the bubble system.

- 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 receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group. Children will only be taken from one class at a time.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending

PPE

While it is not envisaged that PPE will be worn by staff in general, staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks.

Staff who wish to wear masks or shields will be provided with same.

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. The SET team will cover the class until a sub is found.

In extreme circumstances where there is a high number of teachers absent and no substitution available, 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. If the PE hall is being used by class groupings, common touch points should be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day and equipment will be wiped down after use.

Extra-curricular Activities

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. However, it would not be

Logistics of Re-opening of Kinvara NS

recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time.

There will be no school teams or training involving the mixing of pupils from different classes in the first term.

It is unlikely that visiting teachers or coaches will be allowed into school in the first term.

Our general duty of care

Our first duty to the school community is care. Teachers will still at times need to sit next to a child to help them with their work or if a child is upset a teacher or SNA may take their hand or comfort them. All staff will operate with the highest standards of hand hygiene and social distance etiquette but as the management of Kinvara NS we accept and understand that the staff care for the pupils in myriad of ways and it is right that this continues in the 'new normal'.