

Covid-19 Summary Response Plan

This Covid-19 Summary Response Plan sets out some main aspects of our response to prevent the introduction and/or spread of the Covid-19 virus in the school environment. It is important that school-based teaching and learning and the operation of our school facilities complies with the public health advice and guidance documents prepared by the Department of Education & Skills. Doing so minimises the risk to pupils, staff, and others. Our response plan supports the sustainable operation of our school, where the overriding objective is to protect the health of staff and pupils while promoting the educational & developmental needs of the pupils in the school. Our Covid-19 response plan is a living document and will be updated in line with the public health advice as appropriate.

1. All parents/pupils will be asked to adhere strictly to their child's assembly and dispersal times (previously outlined and communicated to parents/guardians via Aladdin app and email to all families)
2. All adults/visitors entering the school grounds must wear a face mask/covering.
3. Parents cannot enter the school grounds at drop off/collection times (some exceptions apply eg. Parents of children with AEN)
4. Parents, visitors, salespeople will not be allowed to enter the school beyond the school reception area. Parents with queries or information for the school or class teacher may speak to the school secretary at reception or preferably, either phone the school office and/or message the class teacher. Visitors to the school must provide their details for contact tracing. All data kept is in compliance with GDPR and Data Protection Acts.
5. During school assembly in the mornings, staff will be at the school gates to welcome the children. Parents will not enter the school grounds and are encouraged to maintain social distance and wear masks at drop off and collection times. Younger children will be accompanied to their class by their class teacher.
6. Class pods/bubbles will be maintained in all classes this school year. Physical distancing of each pod is in place where possible. Staggered entry and exit and staggered break and lunch times will continue to operate. Any changes to the above will be dependant on updated advice from Department of Education/HSE.
7. Children will be required to use hand sanitiser on entering the school, on entry to their classroom and after using the toilets. The class teacher will organise regular handwashing.
8. Parents/Guardians will be sent any updated information received by the Department of Education regarding protocols for isolation, signs and symptoms etc. Common symptoms of coronavirus include: a fever, a new cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, loss or change in your sense of smell or taste, fatigue, aches and pains. Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include sore throat, headaches, runny or stuffy noses, feeling sick or vomiting, diarrhoea. Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild

to severe, and, in some cases, can be fatal. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate, (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a Covid-19 test. If any child is coughing or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, parents are asked not to send their child to school until they have taken the appropriate medical advice & testing if necessary.

9. Sacred Heart School has appointed Lead Worker Representatives and has weekly Covid-19 Review meetings. Case numbers, isolations, cleaning schedules, PPE, etc. are all discussed at these weekly meetings and, through the LWRs, staff are both consulted and kept up to date with any developments. Concerns that have been raised with LWR's from other staff members are discussed. These meetings include the Liam Kelly (Principal), Una Chambers (Deputy Principal), Ciara Kerrigan (Teacher & LWR), Richard Scott (Teacher and LWR) and Christine Murray (SNA & LWR).

10. Children from 3rd - 6th classes are encouraged to wear masks in school.

11. HEPA Air filters have been purchased for all classrooms and Learning Support/ Resource Rooms.

12. Additional deep cleaning - sanitising/sterilisation of all commonly touched areas takes place during every school holiday closure.

The assistance and cooperation of all staff, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors is critical to the continued success of this plan for the 2022.

Liam Kelly

Príomhoide

Robert Gardiner

Chairperson

21/10/2021