



Gaelscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa

COVID – 19 Response Plan

(Updated August 2021)

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make an 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.
- 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 3 groups with each group having different break times and lunch times . Groups will be constituted of NaíShóisir/Shinsir/Rang 1, Rang 2/3/4 agus Rang 5/5/6
- Each class will be assigned a designated entrance pathway (pasáiste) into and out of the school grounds and a designated entry and exit door into and out of the building. This is to keep the traffic at each entrance and exit point to the minimum.
- Classes will be considered a bubble and within each class bubble from Rang a 3 to Rang a 6, the children will be further divided into pods, with the maximum distance possible being maintained between pods in the classroom given the size of the particular classroom.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms. Children will be required to use sanitiser on entry to school each morning and throughout the day as required. Hand washing will also be promoted frequently.

<p align="center">Grúpa A Naí 1 – Rang 1</p>	<p align="center">Grúpa B Rang 2 – Rang 4</p>	<p align="center">Grúpa C Rang 5 & Rang 6</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil ag tosnú 8.50am • Naí 1 - Isteach Pasáiste C agus Doras 5 (Parents can come as far as this door with their child in the mornings) - Abhaile – amach doras 5 agus pasáiste C (Parents will wait at school gate) - @1.30 (after the settling in period) • Naí 2 - Isteach Pasáiste C agus Doras 7 (Parents can come as far as this door with their child in the mornings) - Amach doras 2 agus Pasáiste A @1.30 • Rang 1 - Isteach Pasáiste C agus Doras 7 - Amach Doras 7 agus Pasáiste C @ 2.30pm <p>Briseadh beag 10.20 – 10.30 Lón 12.10 – 12.30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil ag tosnú 8.50am • Rang 2 - Isteach Pasáiste A agus Doras 2 - Abhaile – Amach Doras 2 agus pasáiste A @ 2.30 • Rang 3 - Isteach Pasáiste C agus Doras 7 - Amach Doras 7 agus Pasáiste C @ 2.30 • Rang 4 - Isteach Pasáiste A agus Doras 2 - Amach Doras 2 agus Pasáiste A @ 2.30 <p>Briseadh beag 10.40 – 10.50 Lón 12.40 – 1.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil ag tosnú 8.50am • Rang 5 - Isteach Pasáiste B agus Doras 1 - Amach Doras 1 agus Pasáiste B @ 2.30 • Rang 6 (Aoife) - Isteach Pasáiste A agus Doras 3 - Amach Doras 1 agus pasáiste B @2.30 <p>Briseadh beag 11.00 – 11.10 Lón 1.10 – 1.30</p>

Key to Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Front door of school	1
1 st door on left of school	2
2 nd door on left of school	3
Double door to yard	4
Door at bottom of infant corridor	5
Prefab door	6
Double door at right side of Infant corridor	7

Arrival at school

- Supervision will be provided in school from 8.30am each morning. Children cannot be accommodated before this. Please do not drop your child off earlier.
- Children are to make their way to their classrooms through the designated entry points. (Parents may accompany Junior and Senior Infants only to their designated entry door but will need to maintain social distancing at all times) The wearing of face masks for those parents is advisable.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building. An exception may be made for parents of Naíonáin Bheaga during the 'settling in' period in their turn, not together, and the wearing of facemasks and social distancing measures must be observed at all times.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, 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 designated exit point for that particular class.
- We ask parents to be mindful of collection times and adhere to these times as much as possible.
- Parents are reminded of the importance of not congregating at or near the school at any time.

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 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

Use of Toilets

- Toilets are available in the Infant classrooms and Rang a 3 classroom for class use only.
- 4 female and 4 male toilets are available in the main corridor for use by Rang a 2/4/5 and 6. One male and one female toilet will be assigned to each class for their use only. 1st class will have a separate toilet designated to them. Only one boy/girl from each class will be allowed out of the classroom to use the toilet at any one time.

Homework/Correction of Work

- Homework will continue as normal.
- Teacher supervised self-correction will be used as much as possible i.e. where correction is straightforward.
- Other methods will be used where required e.g. books open on desks and pupils leaving their seats to allow the teacher access to the material, email for more detailed work in higher classes etc.

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 in the school 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. They should then 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.
- 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. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will make every effort to contact parents/guardians before contacting 999 or 112.
- 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 until advice has been sought from GP.
- Children who have been identified as a close contact by the HSE
- 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 are generally unwell.

Children who travelled abroad need to follow current Government advice for that particular destination.

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 suggest activities to support the child's learning at home.

Staff who should not attend school

If a member of staff is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Staff who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Staff who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19 and are not vaccinated.
- Staff who have been identified as a close contact by the HSE and have been advised not to attend work.
- Staff who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Staff who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending and have been advised by the HSE contact tracing team to not attend work.
- Staff with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Staff who are generally unwell

Staff who have travelled abroad need to follow current Government advice for that particular destination.

Impact of a 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
- Parents are also requested to co-operate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and to follow any public health advice they have been given. in the event of a case or an outbreak in the school.

Personal Equipment

- It is requested that children will have 2 sets of pens, pencils, colours, erasers, etc., one set to be kept in school and the other set for home.
- The school will provide a pouch for the school set and also a container for each child's set of books etc so as to avoid children handling other's items in so far as is possible.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- All children are requested to have a small plastic bag in their school bag containing a supply of tissues and a small hand sanitiser.

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.

Ventilation

Gaelscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa undertakes to implement all Department of Education and Skills guidance regarding ventilation of classrooms.

Yards

Each bubble of 3 classes will have access to the yards during their allotted break times as follows –

Náí Shóisir/Shinsir/Rang 1	-	10.20am – 10.30am	&	12.10pm – 12.30pm
Rang 2/3/4	-	10.40am – 10.50am	&	12.40pm – 1.00pm
Rang 5 & Rang 6 x 2	-	11.00am – 11.10am	&	1.10pm – 1.30pm

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNAs.

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 receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending

PPE

All staff members will wear face coverings where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2m from pupils, other staff, parents and essential visitors or in all suspected Covid cases.

Staff who are attending to particular care needs, administering first aid or dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 will be provided with medical grade PPE

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 will take place outdoors and any equipment used will be cleaned before being used by any other class grouping. If the PE hall is being used, common touch points will be cleaned at intervals throughout the school day.

Denis Bohane – **Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bainistíochta**
Máire Ní Nuanáin – **Príomhoide**

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