



Guardian Angels' NS

Plan for Reopening of the School 2021/2022

Underlying principles

- The school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing 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.
- 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.

Assumptions

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system.
- The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different starting times, break times, lunch times and finishing times.
- Groups will be constituted of one class from Junior Infants to 6th class.
- The day will include 2 x 20 minute breaks.
- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms.

Timetables

Timetable for Red Group	Timetable for Blue Group
8.30 – School start 09.50 – Break time 10.10 – Class resumes 12.00 – Lunch time 12.20 – Class resumes 13.10 – Infant classes finish 14.10 – 1 st – 6 th Classes finish	8.30 – School start 10.15 – Break time 10.35 – Class resumes 12.25 – Lunch time 12.45 – Class resumes 13.15 – Infant classes finish 14.15 – 1 st – 6 th Classes finish
Classes in Red Group	Classes in Blue Group
JI – Ms. Harten SI – Ms. L. O'Malley 1 st – Ms. H. Campbell 2 nd – Mrs. Doherty 3 rd – Ms. E. Keogh 4 th – Ms. Harraghy 5 th – Ms. Whelehan 6 th – Ms. Walker	JI – Ms. L. Holst SI – Ms. B. Fahy 1 st – Ms. O'Sullivan/O'Dowd 2 nd – Ms. S. Horan 3 rd – Mr. Howley 4 th – Ms. O'Connor/Molloy 5 th – Ms. Cafferkey 6 th – Mr. Quinn

Key to entrances & exits

Church Gate	Small gate at the side of the Church of the Guardian Angels
Park Gate	Gate by the entrance to Rockfield Park
Main Gate	Main Entrance to the School

Entrance & exit points for specific classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point
Ms. Harten	Jl	Park Gate & Infants' Door
Ms. L. Holst	Jl	Park Gate & Infants' Door
Ms. O'Malley	Sl	Park Gate & Infants' Door
Ms. Fahy	Sl	Park Gate & Infants' Door
Ms. Campbell	1 st	'Church' Gate & Main Door
Ms. O'Sullivan/Ms. O'Dowd	1 st	'Church' Gate & Main Door
Ms. Horan	2 nd	'Church Gate' & Side Door
Mrs. Doherty	2 nd	'Church Gate' & Main Door
Mr. Howley	3 rd	'Church Gate' & Side Door
Ms. Keogh	3 rd	'Church Gate' & Main Door
Ms. Harraghy	4 th	Main Gate & Main Door
Ms. Molloy/Ms. O'Connor	4 th	Main Gate & Side Door
Ms. Cafferkey	5 th	Main Gate & Main Door
Ms. Whelehan	5 th	Main Gate & Main Door
Mr. Quinn	6 th	Main Gate & Main Door
Ms. Walker	6 th	Main Gate & Side Door

- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised. Children should not arrive in the yard before the appointed time.
- Children will go directly to their classrooms.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by Homework Journal, e-mail info@guardianangels.ie or by telephoning the Office 01 2833961

End of school day

- Parents/guardians will be expected to wear a mask and practice social distancing while waiting at the school gates.
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –
 - Jl-2nd - the class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them.
 - 3rd - 6th – the class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.

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.

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 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.
- 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 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 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 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.

In the event of a child being diagnosed with Covid-19, the school will contact the parents/guardians of children in the same pod. Children in the pod who have no symptoms can continue to attend school. Children with symptoms are asked not to attend school. Children in the affected pod can avail of free antigen tests through the HSE and the school will provide all the information needed to order them.

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.
- 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 due to Covid-19 restrictions, the class teacher and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant, will provide activities to support the child's learning at home.

Personal equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st-6th will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. This pencil case should be left in school.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- All children should bring a little bag containing a small hand towel/face cloth which should be changed regularly.
- Children in 1st-6th should also bring a bottle of personal 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.

Uniform

Pupils will continue to wear the school uniform and the tracksuit. The uniform and tracksuit should be in a presentable condition, but there is no need to wash the clothes every day. We recommend that the children change out of the uniform when they get home and the uniform be hung up. It might be an idea to hang the uniform on the line for a while. Children from 3rd-6th are asked to wear masks.

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 from 3rd-6th 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

While it is not envisaged that PPE will be worn by staff while maintaining a 2m distance, staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid, or who cannot maintain a 1 metre distance will wear appropriate PPE including gloves, face masks and visors.

Teacher absence and substitution

In the event of a teacher being 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.

School closure

In the event the school is required to close again due to a lockdown/class required to learn remotely due to the unavailability of a substitute teacher, the school will require that pupils take home all books/materials on the day of closure.

Homework

Homework will consist of reading, learning, PE and wellbeing activities for the month of September. It will be reviewed.

Extra-curricular activities

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will be explored. However, it would not be recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time. The staggered finishing times will also make the scheduling of after-school activities problematic. There will be no swimming during the first two terms.

Updated: 22/01/2022