



Covid-19 Response Plan

This plan has been put in place to ensure the safe return to school for the pupils and the staff after a period of National Emergency.

The plan will be updated in line with HSE guidelines.

GENERAL

- Every member of the school community is responsible for their behaviour to compact the spread of this virus.
- The best way to stop the spread is to follow good hand hygiene, engage in social distancing and wear a face covering.
- Parents, pupils, teachers and lay staff are expected to keep themselves informed on current government guidance.
- The school management team with responsibility for COVID 19 procedures will meet regularly and update parents via email and/or the school website.
- Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.
- It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of 'normal precautions' ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.
- Breaches of regulations will be dealt with in line with the schools code of behaviour and upcoming Dept of Education and Science (DES) guidelines.

PUPILS' CLOTHING

- Pupils and teachers are **required to wear a face covering indoors** and on the **bus at all times**. It is recommended that pupils change the mask daily. Cotton reusable and washable masks are perfect. (DES guidelines do not provide for exemptions to wearing a face covering but should your son/daughter have severe sensory issues that will hinder a face covering, could you contact us and we will work within DES guidelines to resolve the issue as far as possible.)
- Pupils should avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.

- If a pupil has used a tissue, it should be disposed of in one of the bins that has a lid.
- Pupils are **not required** to change and wash their uniform everyday.
- Pupils are asked to wear their PE uniform to school on the day they will have PE. We recommend bringing a change of t-shirt to change into after running around.
- **Sharing of materials** such as pens, pencils, bags, copies, A4 pads, colouring pencils and other similar types of materials **is not allowed**. Therefore, your son/daughter must have the relevant materials with him/her at all times. The sharing of food, drink and items of clothing is also not allowed

CHANGES TO SCHOOL RESULTING FROM GUIDELINES

- There are sixteen hand sanitizing stations around the school. Pupils are asked to use this when they enter and leave the premise and at additional points during the day. Teachers will have additional hand sanitizers should they be needed and pupils may wish to have a personal hand sanitizers in their pencil case.

When should my son/daughter wash his/her hands and use sanitiser?

- On arrival at school/After each class
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors/when their hands are dirty
- When they cough or sneeze
- On exit of the school
- After being in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms

Please follow a link from the HSE here on how to properly wash your hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsgLivAD2FE>

- An additional cleaner has been employed to clean and sanitize during each school day from 11am until 3pm.
- A one way system will be put in place in some areas and pupils are asked to follow this system.

- Students will still have access to their locker. We expect pupils to ensure they do not congregate around the lockers **and visit them as little as possible**. Teachers will attempt to ensure that only an iPad and copy are required for each subject as far as practicable
- Lunch and break times will be taken outside as far as practicable.
- Pupils will be in an assigned classroom for most of their lessons.
- Windows and doors will be left open in most classrooms most of the time.
- Many aspects of teaching and learning will be adapted to fit in with the guidelines.
- Pupils will be assigned seating on the bus to and from school.
- Posters and floor signage are displayed throughout the whole school. These posters feature proper hand hygiene, correct sneeze and cough etiquette and where to stand to allow for social distancing.

Control Measures

1) SUSPECTED COVID 19 CASE

- Pupils should **not be sent** to school if they show **any** symptom (a high temperature, a cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties or loss of sense of smell or taste)
- Should a pupils develop symptoms (a high temperature, a cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties or loss of sense of smell or taste) they will be brought to an isolation area within the school and you will be contacted to collect the pupil. They are then asked to stay at home until they receive a negative test result.
- In the event of a **positive result of any person** in your household, please contact the school immediately. We will then inform the HSE and be guided on how to proceed by the experts.

2)

- When entering the school building use the hand sanitiser provided. Once again, please use the hand sanitiser upon exit
- Visitors, Parents, and Guardians to the school, is by appointment only please e-mail or phone the school
- Maintain physical distancing when invited into the school building
- Wearing of a mask/face-covering is mandatory for all visitors to the school building

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

- SPHE lesson can begin each week with a Q&A if pupils wish to talk about the current situation. Pupils will be supported to discuss anxieties, difficulties and frustrations associated with the new regulations.
- Daithí Ó Gionnáin is available to pupils should they require additional supports, are worried that some are not following regulations, that hand sanitizers are empty or other issues related to COVID 19.
- **School is the best place to learn.** It is also the best place to access additional supports. All pupils should come to school if they are well.
- Teachers will be teaching lessons in a way that fits in with guidelines as they develop. This will require substantial additional planning and preparation. Should a student choose to stay at home, teachers will do their best to provide work for these pupils but it would be unreasonable to expect them to do so.
- Parents and pupils can email muinteoir_david@meanscoilgharman if they have any questions. As part of our regular updates we will answer these questions in a FAQ section on the website.

COVID-19 Information & Guidelines:

- **HSE Guidelines:** www.hse.ie/covid19
- **Department of Education & Skills – Back to School:** www.gov.ie/backtoschool
- **[Ombudsman for Children](#)**