



Scoil Phobail Bhéara

Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile

Covid 19 Induction for students

FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES FROM THE HSE PUBLIC HEALTH AND YOUR GP

The BOM of Scoil Phobail Bhéara has designed new measures to minimise the risk of Covid 19 in the school. The Covid 19 plan and policy is available on the school website. This outlines the measures we are implementing to mitigate against the risk of Covid 19. Please read in conjunction with Covid-19 Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of post primary schools.

We should all be familiar with the symptoms of Covid 19 i.e. some symptoms are - Cough, fever (38 degrees Celsius or above) tiredness, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste or smell. Students should inform their teacher if they feel unwell during the school day.

1. **If your son/daughter feels unwell** with any symptoms of Covid 19 then he/she should be kept at home. If a student becomes unwell in school with symptoms of Covid 19 then he/she will be brought to the isolation area and looked after there. Please make sure that we have your up to date contact details. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and the student will need to be collected as soon as is possible. Parents/Guardians should then contact the GP and follow advice given. At this stage no further action is required by the school.
2. **Close Contacts of a case of Covid 19:** if you have been told that you are a close contact of a case of Covid 19 you need to restrict your movements at home and will be offered a test as soon as possible after you have been identified and then at day 10. Once you are asymptomatic and have received a 'not detected' test result from day 10 test, you can stop restricting your movements and return to school. However, if fully vaccinated your will be contacted by the HSE, your vaccination status will be determined and your will be informed that you no longer need to restrict your movements. It is important that anyone who would have been a close contact are aware of symptoms and isolate and undergo testing should you develop symptoms. Note where a close contact of a positive case is identified, the siblings of these close contact do not require routine exclusion and therefore siblings can still attend school, unless they have also been determined by the HSE to be a close contact.
3. **The response to confirmed cases or outbreaks of Covid-19** in the community or in a school is the responsibility of and will be led by the **Public Health HSE**. Any actions to be taken by the school will be communicated directly by the Public Health HSE. All directions will be given by the Public Health HSE and not be school.
4. **Covid Tracker App:** Students (with permission from parents/guardians) are encouraged to download the tracker app. Staff are also encouraged to do so.

5. **Entry to the school:** Students should enter through the side entrances and follow the direction of staff. We have staggered entrances as the majority of our students arrive by bus at staggered times. Students will be directed to areas for exit.
6. **Masks:** Students should be reminded to wear their cloth mask on the bus and inside the school building. Once outside students can take a mask break once the students are 2m apart. Masks should be worn into shops and social distancing maintained. When not being worn it is advisable that the mask be kept in a Ziploc bag. Face coverings act as a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice when speaking. Face mask are intended to help prevent the transmission of the virus from the wearer (who may not know they are infected) to those with whom they come into close contact.
7. **Hand sanitising stations** are located at entry/exit points, outside of each classroom, inside all toilet blocks, beside all newly placed sinks in hallways, in staffroom, offices and foyer. Additional wipes and/or spray are located in classrooms including all practical rooms to ensure that equipment is wiped down at the start and end of each class and also to wipe tables and chairs when moving classes.
8. **Staggered breaks** – 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students will have the same breaks and 4th, 5th and 6th year students will have the same breaks. There are designated areas within and outside of school for each group. First years do not go down town. This year 2nd years will not be going down town for the moment. We will review this. Monday – 3rd years, Tuesday 4th years, Thursday 5th years, Friday 6th years. This is to allow for social distancing while walking down and up from town and in shops. Please ensure that your son/daughter is aware of his/her allotted day. Students will be allowed a mask break outside during the first break.
9. **Social distancing** – a 1m distance between students will be maintained in classrooms. Students should maintain social distancing while in the hallways and at break times.
10. **Respiratory etiquette:** Students should cover their nose and mouth when sneezing and/or coughing. Students should not spit at or in the vicinity of another person. All tissues and wipes should be disposed of in the correct bins.
11. **Blended learning:** Students will receive tutorials on blended learning which can be used while the school is open or in the event of closure.
12. **Visitors to the school** are by appointment only and have to fill out a health questionnaire prior to entry and a contact log on entry. Students should ensure that they have the necessary materials for each day so as to avoid parents/guardians having to drop off materials.
13. **Collecting a student from school:** In the exceptional circumstance that a student may need to be collected during the school day a parent/guardian should wait in his/her car for the student. Collection (apart for illness) should be made with prior arrangement with the Year Head.
14. **Punctuality:** We would appreciate if all students were on time for school as we are operating an online roll call which will need to be changed if a student arrives late.

Please note that the above is open to change in line with health advice.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

