



Scoil Phobail Bhéara

Ní Neart Go Cuir Le Chéile

COVID 19 RESPONSE PLAN AND POLICY

This plan is designed with current health advice in mind and is open to change. All information including this plan and policy are available on our school website www.bearacs.ie

SUPPORTING WELLBEING OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

There are five essential principles for wellbeing promotion at this time. These are promoting

1. A sense of calm
2. A sense of safety
3. A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
4. A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
5. A sense of hope

Our return to school has to be framed with these principles in mind. We will endeavour to continue to promote and enhance both student and staff wellbeing. We need to bear in mind that students and staff need to reconnect after the summer break and after our experience of remote learning. Our core business of teaching and learning will continue. We look forward to welcoming back all students and in particular to meeting our new 1st year students.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Covid-19 represents a hazard in the context of health and safety in the school environment. We have put control measures in place to mitigate against the risk of COVID 19 in the school setting. Mitigating against a risk does not ensure that the school will remain COVID 19 free but it does ensure that all guidelines from the Department of Education have been put in place.

A health and safety risk assessment has been carried out and our health and safety policy updated to reflect this.

STAFF TRAINING

All staff have received online induction training prior to the reopening of school. A pre-return to work questionnaire has also been completed. All staff will be made aware of the risks and the plans to mitigate against such risks.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT SCHEME

School transport services are under the remit of Bus Éireann and you will receive information regarding the procedures which must be adhered to when travelling on school transport.

Entering and exiting the school

Students may enter the school through the side entrances. Once in school students should go to their designated areas (e.g. 1st year area, 2nd year area etc.) Students may exit the school through the side exits. Supervised sanitation stations will be used at these areas. We will monitor the number of students entering at any one time and adjust if necessary. Students should enter the school in single file and sanitise as directed by the supervisor.

Face coverings:

“It is now recommended that teachers and other school staff as well as post-primary students wear face coverings, similar to those worn in shops or on public transport, when a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained”. Given this advice, it is necessary for students to wear a cloth face covering (see attached information on face coverings). Parents/Guardians should provide this face covering for their son/daughter. There are limited instances where a face covering may not be used and in such cases a visor/face shield should be used as per HSE guidelines. These include:

- Any person who is unable to remove the face-covering without assistance
- Any person with additional needs who may feel upset wearing a face covering
- Any person who has severe difficulty breathing.
- Any person who is incapacitated

Uniform

Uniform should be worn daily as per uniform code. There isn't a need to buy multiple uniforms but uniforms should be kept clean as per usual. Please continue to respect the uniform code by making sure that your son/daughter is in full uniform.

Break times

First break and lunch break times will be staggered. First, second and third year students will have breaks at the same time. Transition year, fifth year and sixth year students will have breaks at the same time. First year students remain on the school premises for lunch breaks. Students will be encouraged to eat lunch outside on school benches if the weather is suitable. Students should be encouraged to bring their own food if they wish for both first and lunch breaks. The school canteen will be open to students. Students will be asked to email lunch orders in advance to canteen@bearacs.ie .

Will students be able to go down town at lunchtime?

First year students will remain on the premises at lunch time. We will not be able to allow large groups of students down town at any one time. We will have a particular day or days each week when different year groups can go down town. Students will be made aware of this on their return. We have to consider the fact that it will be very difficult for students to maintain social distancing on the

footpaths when walking down town. Students will be encouraged to sit outside of the school building during lunch time if the weather is suitable. Access to shops will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Students are expected to maintain physical distancing and appropriate behaviour during lunchtime when they are outside of the school building. Our code of behaviour will be updated to reflect this.

Social distancing within classes:

The guidelines outline that:

42 sqm room can hold 20 students plus one teacher at one meter social distancing.

49 sqm room can hold 24 students plus one teacher at one meter social distancing.

The vast majority of our rooms are 42 sqm. In order to alleviate some of the difficulty we have:

- Reconfigured the library to a classroom
- Reconfigured 13a and 13b to one room instead of 2 rooms
- Reconfigured room one (woodwork room) to a large classroom
- Reconfigured room 21 (business room) to a large classroom
- Science labs and home economics kitchen will now become classrooms for other subjects also.
- Cleared out any additional storage from rooms to make more space for social distancing.

The PE hall will remain as a hall and will not currently be used as a classroom. Further guidelines regarding PE will be given to students.

There will be situations where a room will not hold the maximum amount of students in a class. In that instance the overflow will be sitting at a desk outside of the classroom and receiving the class remotely. These students will be rotated each class. We are doing our absolute best to keep this to a minimum but this is dictated by the room available to us.

Students will receive a designated seat which they will sit in each class. As such students will be sitting with the same group of people in so far as possible. Designated markings will be visible on tables to show the space available to each student. Designated markings for year groups will also be visible around the school.

Moving around the school

Teachers will no longer have subject specific rooms and will instead be moving from class to class. Students, unlike in primary schools, will also have to move to different classes. The movement will depend on the subject e.g. students will have to move to the woodwork room for woodwork, the science lab for science etc. Students in large class groups will have to move to the larger rooms available at a particular time. It will not be possible to create pods where students remain in the one room for the entirety of the school day.

There will be a one way system in operation for movement around the school.

Lockers:

Students will still have access to lockers but will have designated times for access.

Supporting and promoting good hand hygiene, sanitising and cleaning

Hand washing and sanitizing stations will be available throughout the school. Please see attached information on hand washing and how to use hand sanitiser. Hot water, soap and paper towels are readily available.

The school will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised before our return. The entirety of the school will be cleaned daily. Students will need to wipe down their desk and chair if moving rooms and at the end of the day. Tools used in practical classes will also need to be sanitised after each use. Students will receive instructions on this from teachers in practical classes.

Please note there will be a zero tolerance of any interference or tampering with sanitising or handwashing products or facilities. This will form part of our code of behaviour.

Visitors to the school.

A contact tracing log is available in the foyer for visitors to the school. This should be filled in by any visitors to school. Visitors should enter and exit the school through the main entrance only and should follow the guidelines outlined for visitors which is available in the foyer. We cannot facilitate meetings without pre-arranged appointment times. Parents/guardians should phone to make an appointment should they wish to meet a staff member.

What do I do if my son/daughter feels ill?

Students who feel ill with symptoms of Covid 19 should not attend school. You should contact the school as normal to let us know of the reason for absence. You should contact your G.P. and follow his/her advice. Should your son/daughter have a positive Covid test the school will be contacted by the HSE and we will then follow HSE advice.

If a student becomes ill during the school day with symptoms of Covid 19 we will follow the HSE guidelines. The student will be seated in our isolation room. If two students need to use this room then a partition will be placed between the students. Parents/guardians will be contacted and the student will need to be collected from school as soon as is feasible. Please make sure that we have your **current phone and address** details and that you have a designated person that can collect a student should you not be in a position to do so.

What happens if a student receives a positive Covid 19 test result?

The HSE will contact school and give us direction on procedures. Parents/guardians of close contacts will be contacted directly by the HSE. At the time of writing we are currently awaiting updated guidelines for schools regarding procedures around positive Covid 19 testing. These will be made available to the school community once received by the school. The current checklist for schools used when dealing with a student who has Covid 19 symptoms is available on our website.

Please make us aware if your son/daughter is currently awaiting a Covid 19 test.

Restricting movements

The onus is on individual members of the school community to follow all public health guidance including self-isolation on return from abroad from countries not on the green list. Please make us aware if you have travelled abroad two weeks prior to school commencement as your son/daughter will not be able to begin school until after the period of restriction of movement has elapsed.

Please make us aware if you as a parent/guardian or your son/daughter have been advised to restrict your movements.

Contacts for queries:

See below for queries that you may have prior to entry: Please also feel free to phone on 027 70177

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|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General queries` | pauline@bearacs.ie or n.odriscoll@bearacs.ie |
| Book loan queries | Helen Harrington 0868782050 |
| Additional needs queries | a.ocallaghan@bearacs.ie or m.lynch@bearacs.ie |
| Transition year queries | e.sullivan@bearacs.ie |
| Leaving Cert Applied queries | a.ocallaghan@bearacs.ie |
| Insurance or student activity fee queries | info@bearacs.ie |
| Guidance | n.niurdail@bearacs.ie |
| Chaplain | m.murphy@bearacs.ie |
| Canteen pre-ordering | canteen@bearacs.ie |

Year Heads:

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| First Year | Mary Hanrahan |
| Second Year | Ruairi Deane |
| Third year | Margaret Harrington |
| Transition Year | Nina Murphy |
| Fifth Year | Marie Carey |
| Sixth Year | Kathleen Dwyer |