

Covid- 19 Plan for the re-opening of Carrig N.S.

Carrig N.S. Covid 19 policy statement is designed to facilitate the resumption of teaching and learning in Carrig N.S. in a safe environment with measures put in place to prevent the spread of Covid19. It has been developed in line with the following documents from DES

Re-opening our schools- The roadmap for the full return to schools 27th July 2020

Covid 19 response plan for the safe and sustainable re-opening of primary and special schools

The following document outlines the practical measures we need to implement in Carrig N.S. to facilitate a safe return to school. These measures need the full co-operation of all members of our school community, Board of management, Staff, Parents and Children

Control measures to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid 19

- All members of the school community need to know the **Symptoms of COVID-19**
They are:
 1. High temperature
 2. Cough
 3. Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 4. Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Any member of staff or pupils displaying any of these symptoms must not attend school, must contact their doctor and follow HSE guidelines on self-isolation. Children who display these symptoms at school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from school.

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

Respiratory Hygiene

- It is important that everyone follows good respiratory hygiene. Parents can promote this safe behaviour in the home as part of the preparation for returning to school and teachers will reinforce this in the classroom

Hand Hygiene

Carrig N.S will promote good hand hygiene and display posters throughout the school on how to wash your hands properly. Each classroom is equipped with hot water and soap and disposable handtowels. At each classroom door there will be a hand sanitising station. Children will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene

- On arrival at school
- Before and after eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- Before and after playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty
- When they cough or sneeze.

Parents may wish to provide their children with their own bottle of hand sanitiser to use during the day. This may not be suitable for younger children who may accidentally ingest it.

There will be sanitiser dispensers at each entry and exit point of the school

Physical Distancing

To comply with physical distancing requirements in the senior classes, ensuring 1m distance between each child it is necessary to reduce the class numbers in each classroom.

Therefore, the following arrangements for classes will be in place for the coming year.

3rd class -23 children. Mrs. Keogh

3rd/4th class 22 children. Ms Byrne (8 oldest boys in 3rd with the 14 girls in 4th). This group will be in the classroom previously used by 6th class.

4th/5th class 24 children. Ms. Bergin (4th boys with 7 youngest girls in 5th)

5th class 24 children. Ms Darcy

6th class will remain as one whole group in the G. P. hall where it will be possible to maintain the 1m distance.

Decreasing interactions will be an important feature in the coming academic year. In effect this means that each class group will be seen as their own class bubble. The aim of the system is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until departure at the end of the school day.

- In the Junior classes where the 1m distance is not required children will be grouped into pods. This is a measure to limit the extent of close contact within the class bubble.

Procedure for breaks

It will be necessary to ensure that each class has its own space at break and lunch, therefore the following arrangements will apply

Small break: Juniors, Seniors, 1st 2nd 6th :**10.40-10.50a.m.** (eat when they return to class)

3rd, 3rd/4th, 4th/5th, 5th, **10.55-11.05 a.m.** (eat before going out)

Lunch: Juniors, Seniors, 1st 2nd 6th **12.00-12.30 p.m.** (eat when they return to class)

3rd, 3rd/4th, 4th/5th, 5th, **12.35-1.05 p.m.** (eat before going out)

Drop off and collection

- It is important that children are not dropped too early as it will not be possible to implement physical distancing if a crowd of children are left unsupervised outside the door.
 - We intend to use all doors to access the building this year, which will be opened at 8.40a.m. The **gate by the water tower** will be open and **3rd to 6th** class will access the building through here. Therefore, parents of children in these classes may park along the footpath further away from the school and on fine days encourage the older children to walk from the village.
 - **Door Allocation**
 - *6th class will come through the gate by the water tower and enter the building through the **back door** to access the G.P hall.
 - * 3rd 4th and 5th will come through the gate by the water tower enter the side door that is between Juniors and senior Infants classrooms.
 - *1st and 2nd class will walk up the path beside the front entrance of the school and enter the building through the side door facing the church.
 - *Junior and senior infants will come in the front entrance – Main door
- This will be clearly marked out on the first morning and until the new routine is established. At 2.30p.m. * 3rd to 6th will exit the gate by the water tower.
1st and 2nd will exit the main door as Infants will have been collected earlier.

The aim of all this is to ensure that pupils and /or parents will not be congregating on arrival and collection from school. On that note parents must make responsible decisions in relation to wearing a mask if circumstances arise while they wait to collect their child where it is not possible to maintain a 2m distance from other people.

- **Parking-** It is very important as always that parents drive and park responsibly during drop off and collection times. Parents with children in the senior classes who can trust their children to walk safely up the footpath need to leave space nearer the building for parents with younger children.

Other measures to decrease interactions

- There will not be an Assembly for the children in the halla in the morning. When children arrive to school, they will proceed to their own classroom
- It is imperative that parents do not try to have informal meetings with members of staff at drop off and collection times -meetings can only take place by prior arrangement.
- To limit the number of interactions between parents and staff it is important that children comes to school with all the requirements needed for the day. Parents must not return to the school during the day unless to collect a sick child.
- Sharing educational materials needs to be minimised where possible. Each child must have their own supply of materials in his/her pencil case that are clearly named and not shared. Ideally children would have one pencil case for school and one for home.
- There will be a new system for implementing Literacy Lift off whereby the child will only interact with one teacher for the session and the books will be exchanged on a weekly basis
- A new system will be in place for the use of **Library books** and the sharing of **I-pads** between classes.
- **Book rental scheme**-the children will be given a specific set of books to keep on their table to use throughout the year, rather than the books being collected once the lesson is over and redistributed the next day.
- **Homework**- each class teacher will devise a system for homework that reduces the number of books going into homes and returning to school.

- Children will not be allowed to enter other classes with messages for the teacher or other siblings. If for example a child forgets their lunch it will not be possible to go to a sibling to share their lunch and on that note children sharing lunches with peers in the class will not be permissible.
- Toys and equipment used for free play and Aistear in the Infant classes will be cleaned each day.
- If children need to use the bathroom while out on the yard, they must return to the bathroom in their own classroom, rather than using the communal bathroom downstairs.
- Our special education teachers will continue to fulfil their very valuable role in supporting the children's needs but where possible their caseloads have been arranged so that each SET will be interacting with only two classes.

Uniforms

There is no specific protocol in the Guidelines in relation to uniforms. Parents may wish to have a clean change of clothes for their child each day. To facilitate this, we are suggesting that children wear their uniform on Mondays, and alternate the uniform and tracksuit on other days as they see fit. The class teachers will specify which day they need your child to have their tracksuit for P.E. If the weather is good for the first few weeks when we return to school children may wear the summer option (navy shorts and polo shirts) every day so may need to purchase two sets to facilitate washing during the week.

Impact of Covid-19 on certain school activities

We expect to have more advice on this in advance of the school re-opening on August 26th. For the moment no after school activities will be organised.

Please note: This plan will be changed and adapted as more guidelines issue from DES.

When the school is up and running, existing measures may need to be changed, to ensure at all times that best practice is adhered to.