

Covid- 19 Response Plan for the re-opening of Carrig N.S. 31st August 2021

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- August 21.

It is also updated to reflect the information in the Governments **Recovery and Resilience: The path ahead** and the **Work Safely Protocol**.

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 are generally unwell.

Children who have returned home after travelling abroad must follow the latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.

Parents and staff are asked to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school.

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 hand towels. 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.

Children's tables will be cleaned each evening with anti-viral cleaner.

Physical Distancing

Where possible work stations will be allocated consistently to the same staff and children rather than having spaces which are shared. Pupils will be placed into Class Bubbles (i.e., a class grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible) and discrete groups or "Pods" within those class bubbles, to the extent that this is practical. There will be at least (1m distance) between individual Pods within the Class Bubble and between individuals in the pod, whenever possible. The objective is to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people in different Class Bubbles (and Pods within those Class Bubbles) as much as possible, rather than to avoid all contact between Pods, as the latter will not always be possible.

The aim of the system within Carrig school is that class grouping mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until departure at the end of the school day. The Pods within those Class Bubbles is an additional measure to limit the extent of close contact within the Class Bubble. Pod sizes will be kept as small as is likely to be reasonably practical in the specific classroom context. There will be two small junior infant classes for the 21/22 academic year. Staff should take measures to avoid close contact at face-to-face level such as remaining standing rather than crouching down/sitting beside children. The teacher's desk should be at least 1m at least away from pupils' desks.

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 : **10.40-10.50a.m.** (eat when they return to class)

3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th : **10.55-11.05 a.m.** (eat before going out)

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

3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th : **12.35-1.05 p.m.** (eat before going out)

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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 again this year, which will be opened at 8.40 a.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

3rd 4th 5th and 6th 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.

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.

Our aim 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 them 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 classrooms.
- 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.
- The 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 will continue again this year.
- The system in place during last year for the use of **Library books** and the sharing of **I-pads** between classes will continue.
- **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.

Choir and wind instruments: This will be allowed indoors with adequate ventilation. Last year it was only possible outdoors with 2M distancing.

Sharing of sports equipment: Sharing of equipment is to be kept to a minimum. Each class will have their own ball to bring to the yard at breaktime which will be cleaned immediately after break.

- **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. Children sharing lunches with peers in the class will not be permissible either.
- Toys and equipment used for free play and Aistear in the Infant classes will be rotated.
- 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 the minimum number of classes this year .

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 31st.

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

During the 21/22 academic year existing measures may need to be changed, to ensure at all times that best practice is adhered to.