

Ebrington Primary School & Nursery Unit



Updated School RESTART Transition Plan

August/ September 2021 (updated 25 August)

Ebrington Primary & Nursery School seeks to provide a caring secure and challenging environment in which all our pupils have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential – spiritually, socially, academically, physically, emotionally, morally and culturally and in which teaching and learning of academic excellence can occur with the co-operation and support of parents.

Dear Parent

Following the correspondence and updated guidance from the Department of Education on Wednesday 18 August for primary school RESTART for this academic year, please find below an updated guide to the school return for ALL PUPILS/ FAMILIES to follow from Tuesday 31 August 2021.

I hope everyone has had a good summer and we so look forward to seeing our school community back together for a busy school year and look forward to successfully working together to make this a safe and manageable return for all.

We recognise the impact that the wider society and public health changes may have on transition plans and will, at all times, put the needs, health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff first and foremost.

Our overarching **KEY STRATEGY:**

Our key strategy in school will be to continue to apply 'protective bubbles' within school. Public Health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres (2m) will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils. Class bubbles are in operation while inside the school building, while year group bubbles will be used while outside the school building.

KEY AIMS through this strategy:

- to safely bring back all pupils and engage in face to face learning with school staff
- to provide necessary curriculum support to pupils as they return to the routine of the 'new school day'
- to provide opportunities for pupils to engage in activities developed to promote good emotional health and wellbeing

KEY CONSIDERATIONS in managing the implementation of this strategy:

- DE Guidance (18 August primary schools) and any subsequent published guidance material.
- School group and individual risk assessments.
- DE/EA risk assessments.
- Operational plan for RESTART, including safety measures.
- Enhanced cleaning regime and procedures in place.
- PHA guidelines for suspected/ confirmed cases, and implications of this for school/ bubble.
- Induction of new Nursery, Speech & Language and Year 1 intake.
- Adaptations to school Positive Behaviour policy, Intimate Care policy & Use of ICT policy.

It is our desired plan to have the school return to a 'safe normal' as soon as possible. The information presented in this document provides you with an updated overview of this RESTART plan, based on what had been in place for the previous academic year.

****REMINDER** Covid-19**

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A CHILD BE SENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY, OR ANYONE LIVING IN THEIR FAMILY HOME DISPLAY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- High temperature or fever
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of or change in sense of taste or smell

Should anyone display these symptoms, do not come to school. Call 111 and/ or book a free test.

Just as a reminder, should your child be unwell with vomiting, diarrhoea or any other common illness, contact the school to be advised how long they should remain at home until they can return.

Communication

Please ensure that, if you have recently moved or changed phone numbers, that the office have your most recent contact details. If you have a concern or need to speak directly to a member of staff, please contact the school office on 02871 343864 or email us at bguthrie493@c2kni.net. As I am sure you understand, no parent can just 'pop in' for a chat in the morning with the teacher.

It is important that if your child has an appointment or will be late in/ going home early, you send a written note to school to allow us to keep an accurate record of pupil attendance.

Arrival at school

Unfortunately, we have lost the use of the shale pitch as a car park. This means we have very limited parking available to parents on the school site. I feel it relevant to point out at this stage that the vast majority of schools within our city have a policy of absolutely NO ACCESS to parent cars on site, even prior to Covid 19 changes.

Car access from the Limavady Road will be for DROP OFF ONLY. It is vitally important that NO PARENTS use the parking bays on the lower access to school. Also, cars should not park along yellow lines. This area is coned to ensure safe passage for pupils accessing the school building via the footpaths. We no longer have enough parking bays in this area for staff. Please ensure you drive safely and carefully, due to the increased pedestrian traffic around this area.

The upper Nelson Drive car park has 30 parking bays. I would ask parents to give due consideration to our Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 parents in their use. I would also ask parents to be considerate of the residents who live close to the school entrances and not park up directly in front of their properties. The Greenway has been built. Further work is scheduled to link this up and I would encourage as many as possible to find ways of 'active travel' to school to minimise traffic congestion.

AS LIKE LAST YEAR, IF YOU HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Pupils should only access the school site from 8:30 onwards. School pod doors will open from 8:40am. **Pupils should line up outside their pod doors, in an organised way, as they would at the end of break/ lunch time.** They should not be running around the playground or using any trim trail or play equipment prior to school starting.

WE ARE NOT OPERATING A GRADUATED DROP OFF/ PICK UP TIME, as we recognise the difficulties this creates for parents with pupils in different year groups. The previous one-way pedestrian system is very difficult to manage in operation-please maintain social distancing while on site, keep to the left of pathways as you walk and do not congregate for a chat. I know this sounds very anti-social, and is far from the #TeamEbrington environment we want to maintain but needs must at this time.

To limit footfall on site, we would request that only one parent/ guardian walk the pupil to the school building, unless as a family, it makes it more convenient for parents to share 'dropping off' at different pod doors. Pupils in P3-P7 should be able to manage moving to their pod door without a parent-no parent should need to come through the lower playground gate.

We request that P1-P2 parents do not enter classroom pods, and all parents observe appropriate social distancing when moving within the site. We would also discourage congregating in small groups for a parental chat in the morning, while on the school site.

A one-way system will be in operation for Nursery parents. This will be fully explained by Nursery staff. Arrangements have also been put in place and shared for pupils attending our Speech & Language unit.

Staff will meet pupils at the pod doors and will provide handwashing facilities on entry to each classroom.

Should your child have been unwell within the last 24 hours, it is **IMPERATIVE** that they **DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL** until fully recovered in order to minimise the risk to others.

***REMINDER- SCHOOL TIMES (Friday only)**

The Nursery Unit will continue to start and finish at its planned daily times, finishing every day at 1:30pm. School will operate normal start and finish times on Monday-Thursday (P1-P2 finish at 2:00pm, P3-P7 finish at 3:00pm) **HOWEVER, ON A FRIDAY, DUE TO COVID-19, SCHOOL WILL FINISH FOR ALL PRIMARY PUPILS (P1-P7) AT 2:00PM.** This allows school to give an enhanced weekly clean, as well as the regular thorough clean. We will keep this under review throughout the term and inform parents of any changes.

Class Protective Bubbles

Each class will be known as a 'protective bubble'. Each bubble will be its own separate entity and will not mix with other bubbles, whilst indoors. At break times and lunch times, while outside, classes will operate in year group bubbles, due to the reduced risk of transmission in an outdoor environment. The playground and school grounds have been timetabled and divided for appropriate use. School meals will be served in the hall for pupils in Year 3-Year 7, as well as Speech & Language pupils, from the return to school while they will be delivered to, and eaten in, the classrooms for pupils in Year 1 and Year 2. We are fortunate to have toilet facilities within each 'pod' for our Nursery-P4 pupils. Each bubble will be allocated particular toilets. Our KS2 and S & L toilets will be monitored, timetabled (as much as possible) and cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day.

In-School Hygiene

Pupils will have supervised handwashing built in to the school daily plans. In addition to this, each classroom is being equipped with hand sanitizer and cleaning products which the class teacher and classroom assistant will use on surfaces throughout the day. Furthermore, school is ensuring that toilets and regularly touched contact points are cleaned regularly.

Suspected case of Covid-19

Should a pupil present with any of the following 3 symptoms (as identified by the PHA):,

- Elevated temperature
- Continuous cough
- Change in taste/ smell
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they will be removed from their 'protective bubble' and taken directly to our designated isolation room, where they will be supervised until an adult comes to collect them. Their temperature will be taken and recorded, and any siblings in school will also be removed from their class to go home.

After each use of this isolation room, a thorough clean will take place.

Home time

Unlike the morning time, no traffic should be coming through the main school gates, except those agreed due to mobility issues. Rather parking is available on the upper car park at Nelson Drive and in surrounding areas to school. Again, please be respectful to the local residents. At home time, pupils will be escorted to certain 'pick up zones' around school, map as last year. This will be shared via school SeeSaw and Google Classrooms. While waiting, all parents should adhere to the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Upon collection of your child/ children, please leave the school grounds as quickly as possible, and do not congregate.

Pastoral Support

We fully understand that all families, and especially our pupils, are likely to have a range of feelings on the return to school. Therefore, as a school, we will continue to make use of the school PATHS programme and ensure its relevance throughout all year groups to pastorally support pupils on their return.

School 'Wrap-Around' services

Our initial school RESTART plan does not incorporate either Breakfast Club or our FULL After School Club.

We do, however, recognise the huge importance and value of these services to our school community. We will endeavour to have these services running in some format as soon as we feel is safely possible, while still keeping within all guidelines.

As in June, we will operate a 'supervision club' only, week beginning Monday 13 September. A link for the use of this will be sent out week beginning Monday 6 September. Pupils will be supervised in the hall and stay within their consistent class/ year bubble.

I hope we can start to operate our more full range of after schools clubs at some stage before Halloween.

REMOTE LEARNING

All classes will, once again, be set up on a remote classroom format-either Seesaw or Google Classroom, depending on their age and stage. Please ensure you keep any login details provided by school in a safe place. They will be used as an effective means of communication and information sharing, alongside the website and Facebook page. They are also there in the event of either a large number of pupils, or a whole class, being absent due to Covid 19. Please remember, they should not be used as a platform for parents/families to make contact with staff regarding any issues there may be in school. This still needs to be done by making contact with the school office.

'ALL IN THIS TOGETHER' #TEAMEBRINGTON

It is essential that we can all work together, be respectful to each other and follow the information within this plan to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all involved in #Team Ebrington.

On behalf of all school staff, I would like to say that we truly look forward to seeing you all again from Tuesday 31 August onwards

Kind regards

Mr Guthrie