

# Covid-19 Policy

## SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY FOR BALNAMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 1. Introduction

The school recognises the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (and associated Regulations up to and including Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (NI) 2000) and has an existing Health and Safety Policy which sets out how we do this. However, in recognition of the current circumstances due to COVID-19, this supplementary document sets out the arrangements in relation to the health and safety of our children, staff and the wider school community during this time. This document has been written in accordance with guidance from the Department of Education NI and the Education Authority in relation to managing risk associated with COVID-19, paying particular attention to **Education Restart – Publication of Revised New School Day Guidance, August 2020**.

In order to ensure the school continues to operate in a safe way, thorough risk assessments are undertaken and any necessary adjustments to ensure the safety of children, staff and the wider community are implemented.

### 2. Risk assessment

As part of the preparation for wider opening of our school (from June 2020) a detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and an action plan to make any necessary adjustments to mitigate risk has been produced. The risk assessment and accompanying action plan cover the following Health and Safety elements:

- Buildings & Facilities
- Emergency Evacuation
- Cleaning & Waste Disposal
- Classrooms
- Staffing
- Group Sizes
- Social Distancing
- Catering
- PPE
- Response to suspected / confirmed Covid-19 cases
- Curriculum / learning environment
- Communication

The risk assessment and action plan are dynamic and are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet current need. All appropriate documentation is shared with staff and any necessary training to support implementation of the plan is provided.

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

#### **The board of Governors will:**

- Regularly assess the effectiveness of the policy and risk assessments
- Ensure all documentation is regularly reviewed to meet current need and any updated guidance from the Department of Education or Education Authority
- Ensure staff have access to any training or instruction required to implement the action plan
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and staff and ensure there is appropriate support in place

#### **b. The Principal will:**

- Have overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the policy, risk assessment and action plan
- Ensure all documentation is regularly reviewed to meet current need and any updated guidance from the Department of Education or Education Authority
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and staff and ensure there is appropriate support in place

#### **c. All staff will:**

- Carry out all work in accordance with the policy and risk assessments, including additional tasks as part of the response to COVID-19
- Take the opportunity to contribute to the risk assessment
- Be responsible for reporting any (potential or actual) Health and Safety risks related to COVID-19 to the Principal
- Undertake any training to support implementation of the action plan and to identify any individual needs which may impact on the delivery of the plan
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and other staff

#### **d. Parents will:**

- Adhere to any recommendations from the school to help reduce the risk of transmission
- Keep their child at home if they or anyone within the household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or if otherwise advised to by the school or another appropriate Body (GP or NHS Track and Trace, for example)
- Adhere to drop-off and collection arrangements set by the school
- Ensure their child is aware of any protective measures put in place by the school and to encourage them to comply
- Adhere to government guidance at all times to reduce the risk of transmissio

#### **e. Pupils will:**

- Observe the Health and Safety rules of the school, including new arrangements in response to COVID-19
- Make staff aware if feeling unwell
- Report any Health and Safety concerns to a member of staff

Relevant Health and Safety information has been communicated to all staff and the wider school community.