



School Procedures Update: 11/09/20

As we continually review our procedures we are delighted to announce that we have been able to make some changes, which we feel are a positive development and a much welcomed step further in our reopening plan.

The EA and PHA have now released further advice for schools on the issue of schoolbags/lunch boxes, which states:

***'With regard to school bags our advice is that if these are sanitised, the risk is minimal. Parents will need to be reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure that items are cleaned regularly. On that basis and given that the schoolbag and its contents, lunch box and water bottle etc. are personal to the children and not shared with other children within the bubble then we think that it is reasonable that they should be permitted.'* (EA/PHA)**

Lunchboxes: As a result of this new advice we will be **permitting plastic lunchboxes**, which can be brought home and washed easily, fabric type lunchboxes should not be sent in. We ask that you only send in **one lunchbox container** with all items for snack and lunch inside. This will be the case from **Monday 14th September**. We have already agreed to reusable water bottles being brought in and would encourage you to avail of these. Those of you that wish to continue using recyclable paper/plastic bags are welcome to do so.

Waste: The amount of waste we have been producing since reopening is increasing, so we have decided that any rubbish/leftovers/packaging will be sent back home in the lunchbox. This will also give you the opportunity to see exactly what your child is eating or not eating, which I am sure will be beneficial when preparing lunches each day.

Schoolbags: As our current provision for homework is all online, there is no need for schoolbags at this stage. The extra requirement to have these sanitised and washed regularly would also be difficult to monitor, so our policy remains the same in terms of **no schoolbags**.

School Ties: It is lovely to see how well turned out our children are coming to school each day. They are a credit to all our parents/carers and we appreciate the 100% adherence to the black shoe policy when wearing formal uniform. We had recommended that children did not need to wear a tie, however after consideration we now suggest that **children wear their school tie if wearing a school shirt**. We would emphasise however, that short sleeved shirts are best as it facilitates handwashing much more easily. Therefore, children are still permitted to wear polo shirts under their jumper without a tie if preferred. Alternating between PE/Formal uniform remains a recommendation.

I would like to once again thank you for your cooperation and patience as we adjust to the new 'normal'. We recognise that we could not have achieved such a successful start to the school year without your support, and that is very much appreciated.

We will continue to evaluate our procedures and ensure that the health and wellbeing of our whole community is central to any decision made.