



COVID-19 Policy Statement

Scoil Cholmcille SNS is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

- **continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff**
- **provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie**
- **display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques**
- **agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan**
- **inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements**
- **adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education**

- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- provide instructions for staff and pupils to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time

Measures to be taken to reduce the risk of infection

- All staff to complete the Return to Work form at least 3 days before the school opens
- Contacts/visitors to the school recorded: Contact Log to be filled in by Yvonne or Fiona
- An induction lesson on new procedures for all staff before opening
- Information sent to parents about new procedures
- Children to be taken through new procedures as soon as they return to school
- Class Bubbles and Pods.
- Social distancing in line with current Government recommendations to be observed by everyone where possible.
- Handshakes not used for greeting
- Display of posters and materials throughout the school building to educate on personal behaviour in relation to the spread of the virus, recognising signs and symptoms.
- Two Isolation rooms prepared for any person showing symptoms and awaiting travelling home
- Enhanced cleaning of the school
- Provision of soap and hand-sanitizer in all classrooms and at entrances
- Arrival to school staggered by classes to reduce social congregation at school gates
- Breaks for children to be staggered to allow children to stay in class bubbles
- Movement through the school to be largely based on a one way system
- All doors into school to be utilised more for entering and leaving
- Waste disposal to become more frequent.
- Children to stay home if displaying symptoms of COVID 19 or if anyone in their home is diagnosed.

- Staff to stay at home if showing symptoms or if anyone they have close contact with is diagnosed.
- Meetings to be of small numbers or held on Zoom
- Personal protective wear to be made available to staff in ASD classes and to other staff who require it when maintaining 2 metre distance is not possible.
- Administering first aid safely using PPE.

Teachers are asked to:

- Maintain social distancing in line with Government guidelines
- Wear a mask if/where recommended by Government
- Allow frequent handwashing in the classroom
- Encourage cough and sneeze etiquette
- Inform principal immediately if child shows symptoms
- Keep their class as a bubble having pods within this bubble
- Not to allow children share books, equipment
- Provide children in the class with a paint brush and scissors labelled for individual use, to be kept in baskets
- Homework stamped on child's desk or placed in quarantine box for 3 days before correcting
- Open the PE Hall doors when using and close afterwards
- Prepare for future closures by preparing a folder of work/materials to be kept by pupils and teacher
- Encouraging social interaction and activity in a safe manner
- Provide their own mugs and cutlery
- Use their own pens when signing in etc
- Wear clothes that can be washed regularly

Parents/Guardians are asked:

- Not to send a child with symptoms of COVID 19 to school
- To inform the school if a close contact or family member is diagnosed
- To avoid congregation as much as possible at the school gate.
- That all children arrive in school with the books, copies and stationery they need each day
- To collect children on time everyday.
- That children know how to observe cough and sneeze etiquette
- That children have a labelled glue stick for personal use and a child sized scissors if possible
- That they use Aladdin to make e- payments to the school wherever possible
- That they enter the yard each morning at their designated times

- To wash their child's uniform regularly. The children can wear (ideally) a generic navy tracksuit when their uniform is being washed.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment has been implemented taking into account as many aspects of school life as possible. These include assembly, movement in the school, use of resources, breaks etc The aim is to minimise the risk of illness occurring in the school.

Isolation Room

The isolation room is located at the back of the school. It has plastic chairs and a table. It will be kept stocked with masks, gloves, sanitiser, for those who feel ill and are awaiting collection to go home. On entering the room, the windows should be opened and a member of staff should stay outside the room but in view of the child/adult until they may leave. They will then exit the school by the backdoor. The doors/surfaces should not be touched by the person feeling ill. The room will be thoroughly cleaned after being used for isolation purposes.

Legionella Risk/Concern

As little to no water has been circulating in the school system for several months, the taps will be opened and the toilets flushed to clean out the system. This will be repeated before July Provision and before the school re-opens in September.

Staffroom

In the staffroom, all staff should wash their hands or sanitise before handling communally used items such as kettles and microwaves. Staff are requested to use their own delph and cutlery at all times in school. Surfaces will be cleaned regularly and material to do so will be provided.

In the event of a positive case of Covid 19 in a class in the school.

Due to the heightened risk of infection with the new variants of the virus, should Scoil Cholmcille become notified of a positive case of Covid 19 in the school, the whole class, including the teacher and learning support teacher, shall be sent home while we await public health advice. Parents will be called and requested to collect their child from the school. The children will then be informed of the situation and instructed to take with them what they need for a possible return to online learning. The teacher and learning support teacher will provide remote teaching if the class is sent home for testing.

Once we receive clear direction, the school will follow all advice from the HSE.

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions.

This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s), who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department of Education and education partners.

This is a working document and is subject to change.

**Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson of the Board of Management**