

Re-opening DSP - Covid 19 Plan

15th March 2021

1. Context

“Schools are reminded that **all unnecessary travel should be avoided**, and that in the interests of minimising the spread of COVID-19, schools must make every effort to avoid organising events that could lead to the congregation of pupils.

Schools are also asked to remind parents and pupils **not to congregate in school grounds/at school gates.**”

Letter to School Principals
8th March 2021
from Deirdre Shanley, Assistant Secretary

2. Assumptions

- Children in all classes return to school and classes operate within a bubble system.
- A **Return to Education Form** must be completed by all parents/guardians through the Permissions option on the Aladdin App.
- For entering, exiting and break times, the school is split into different groups during the school day. The day will include 2 x 20 minute breaks.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms. All children sanitise at entry and departure using school sanitiser. **Please provide a letter if your child is not able to use the school sanitiser.**

3. Essential Protocols

The school community has managed the partial re-opening of school really well through cooperation from all parties. We encourage high levels of awareness regarding **physical distancing**. Some protocols to observe on arrival:

- Adults leave area near school gates immediately
- Children stay in school yard once they enter the yard
- Children carry their schoolbags into the yard and when parking their bikes. Carrying bags on backs is the safest way to keep hands free to get sanitizer and to maintain safe balance walking up and down steps/stairs
- **Do not make playdates**

- Children in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th are independent enough to **walk/cycle from traffic lights** (if coming from Sallynoggin direction) or to walk along Arnold Grove **to gates and yard by themselves**
- This plan aims at minimising contact between adults to prevent Covid entering the school community leading to another school closure. If families have **any signs of infection e.g. cough, sniffles, generally unwell etc., please keep your child at home.**

4. Arrival at school

- Each **class group** should aim to arrive at their allocated time only.
- Each **class group** should line up at their designated point with physical distancing observed.
- Staff will be outside the gates to facilitate **immediate handover of children.**
- Staff will help children Junior Infants – 2nd class **lock/unlock bikes and scooters** if necessary.
- Children 3rd – 6th will have designated bike/scooter park areas. Staff will guide children to correct area.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school building or the yard unless invited to do so.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email or by phoning the school office.
- Adults are encouraged NOT to drive or park beyond Hillcourt Grove as children will be walking (physically distanced as per guidelines) on the footpath and in the turning circle by Gate 4. Parents/guardians of Junior Classes will also need to be able to use this space to physical distance when dropping off and collecting.
- **Adults are encouraged NOT to congregate in front of or around the school.**
- If adults are collecting multiple children at various times, make a plan e.g. walk to Sallyglen, walk to your car and back again. **Do not gather in groups at the Sallyglen rock. Do not make playdates. We want to keep our school open. Stay at a 2m distance and keep to family pair.**
- If you are invited with your child to enter the school grounds, please adhere to physical distance guidelines at all times.
- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on/near school grounds at any one time will be minimised.

a. Arrival Times and Protocols

6th, 4th, 2nd and Senior Infants

Time	Class	Enter through....	Designated line-up area
8.20	6 th Class	Gate 5	Large Basketball court
	4 th Class	Gate 5	Small Basketball court
	2 nd Class	Gate 4	Small yard beside Gate 4
	Senior Infants	Gate 1	Railing by Gate 1

5th, 3rd, 1st and Junior Infants

Time	Class	Enter through....	Designated line-up area
8.30	5 th Class	Gate 5	Large Basketball court
	3 rd Class	Gate 5	Small Basketball court
	1 st Class	Gate 4	Small yard beside Gate 4
	Junior Infants	Gate 1	Railing by Gate 1

3rd 4th 5th 6th classes

- Pupils, if travelling from the direction of Arnold Grove, should use the left-hand footpath to walk around the outside of the fence to enter the yard through Gate 5.
- Pupils, if travelling from the direction of Sallyglen, should go straight through Sallyglen to enter the yard through Gate 5.
- Children will line up, adhering to social distance guidelines, in the designated area of yard
- Staff will guide children to class in pods

2nd class

- 2nd class pupils say good bye to adult (if present) at Gate 4 and walk to designated spot
- Staff will guide children to class in pods

1st class

- 1st class pupils say good bye to adult (if present) at Gate 4 and walk to designated spot
- Staff will guide children to class in pods

Junior and Senior Infants

- Say goodbye to parent/guardian at Gate 1 and walk upstairs
- Staff will guide children to class

5. Optional mask wearing for 5th 6th classes

We recommend children in 5th and 6th classes wear masks as a way to minimize spread of infection. See attached folder for information on how to use and store masks safely: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/ppe/HSE%20Face%20Covering%20Poster.pdf>

6. Sanitising and Eating and Break Routines

All children will sanitise their hands before eating their lunch and again on their way out to the yard. Children can use the class sanitation station in their pod groups

or

A staff member may spray their hands with a sanitation spray or gel while they are seated

When eating

- Children should bring their own drinking vessel, spoons etc. They will be asked to place all waste and cutlery straight back into their lunch boxes to take home.
- Children will be encouraged to clean their table and clean their hands after eating and cleaning.
- Children will not share food e.g. lunches and birthday cakes.
- Food and wrapper waste will be returned to lunch boxes. A staff member will clean the table after children have eaten.

A staff member will open and close all doors to minimize unnecessary contact with surfaces in public areas.

Children will leave the classroom in their pod groups to retrieve their coats and go straight out of the building. A staff member will be available in the corridor to ensure children enter and exit the building safely and swiftly.

Break 1

Time	Class	Exit through....
10.00 – 10.20	Junior Infants	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 3
	Senior Infants	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 3
	3 rd Class	Entrance by 3 rd , back garden, top basketball yard
	4 th Class	3 rd class entrance, back garden, Sallyglen
10.25 – 10.45	1 st Class	Internal stairs, Door 3, Gate 3
	2 nd Class	Internal stairs, Door 3, Gate 3
	5 th Class	Door 4 (Re-enter via back garden)
	6 th Class	Door 4 (Re-enter via back garden)

Break 2

Time	Class	Exit through....
12.15 – 12.35	Junior Infants	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 3
	Senior Infants	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 3
	3 rd Class	Entrance by 3 rd , back garden, top basketball yard
	4 th Class	3 rd class entrance, back garden, Sallyglen
12.40 – 1:00	1 st Class	Internal stairs, Door 3, Gate 3
	2 nd Class	Internal stairs, Door 3, Gate 3
	5 th Class	Door 4 (Re-enter via back garden)
	6 th Class	Door 4 (Re-enter via back garden)

7. End of School Day

Junior Infants

Time	Class	Pick Up Area	Exit through....
1:10pm	Junior Infants	Gate 1	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 1

Senior Infants

Time	Class	Pick Up Area	Exit through....
1:00pm	Senior Infants	Gate 1	Door 1, external stairs, Gate 1

6th, 4th and 2nd

Time	Class	Exit through....	
2pm	6 th Class	Door 3 and Gate 5	Cross road and use footpath opposite school
	4 th Class	Door 4 and Gate 4	Cross road and use footpath opposite school
	2 nd Class	Door 1 and Gate 1	Use footpath beside school

5th, 3rd and 1st

Time	Class	Exit through....	
2.10pm	5 th Class	Door 3 and Gate 5	Cross road and use footpath opposite school
	3 rd Class	Door 4 and Gate 4	Cross road and use footpath opposite school
	1 st Class	Door 1 and Gate 1	Use footpath beside school

Staff will guide cyclists 3rd – 6th classes to collect bikes and exit safely

8. Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, send an email to the school. The following arrangements will apply when the adult arrives at the school, they should phone the office to alert the school that they have arrived.

- The adult should wait outside Gate 1.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.

9. Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. They should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the
- disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided.

- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.
- The HSE will inform any staff/parents/guardians who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.

10. 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 have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

11. Return to Education Form required following every absence

If your child is absent for any reason, a Return to Education Form must be completed before returning to school: <https://www.cpsma.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Section-5-Infection-Prevention-Control-Measures-.pdf>

A Parental Declaration can be completed through your family account on Aladdin Connect.

12. Wellbeing Resources

Wellbeing resources can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/af24b-wellbeing-guidance-documents-for-parents-students-and-schools/%23parents-primary-schools>





