**COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Scoil Molaise Primary School, Old Leighlin**

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This is a living document and may be reviewed and amended to take into account new guidance from [www.Gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie/), [www.dbei.ie](http://www.dbei.ie/) , [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie/), [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie/), [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie/); [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie/) or agreements with education partners as appropriate for primary and special schools.

**2.Appendices**

**Appendix 1** Scoil Molaise COVID-19 School Policy Statement

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* **3.Introduction**

The Minister for Education published “*The Roadmap for the Full Return to School*” on the 27th July. It sets out what the operation of schools will look like and the range of supports which will be available in a COVID-19 context.

It had been developed in line with public health advice issued by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and in compliance with the “Return to Work Safely Protocols” developed by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health with guidance documents provided by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). Each workplace is required to have a COVID-19 Response Plan. In addition to being places of learning, schools are also places of work. This document set out the information that primary schools needed to implement a School COVID-19 Response Plan, including a COVID-19 policy, lead worker representative and process to deal with a suspected case of COVID-19.

The purpose of this document was to provide clear and helpful guidance for the safe operation through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in primary and special schools. It provided key messages to minimise the risk of COVID-19 for staff, pupils, families and the wider community while recognising the importance of education for the health and wellbeing of pupils and society as a whole.

This document focused on the practical steps which can be taken in primary and special schools to minimise the risk of the introduction of infection into schools while recognising that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission of infection at any time. The documentation and templates provided are supported by the public health advice provided by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) for the safe reopening of schools and educational facilities. [That report is available here.](https://assets.gov.ie/78748/8796d60e-790e-4007-add1-de18e509a3c1.pdf)

One of the key challenges is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning. This document identified the steps schools could take to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school and the steps that could be taken to reduce the likelihood of the spread within the school itself.

The Department had worked intensively with the education partners to develop consistent plans, advice, protocols and guidance for schools, including the School COVID-19 Response plan. There is a suite of documentation available to support schools to reopen safely and fully including guidance on learning, school programmes and wellbeing for the 2020/21 school year. There is also information on funding, staffing and resources to schools to support COVID-19 measures. Schools were advised to familiarise themselves with these documents. All of the documents were available at **gov.ie/backtoschool**

In addition the Department had a communication plan for school reopening which focuses on ensuring that schools, school communities and all stakeholders will have the relevant information to support the reopening and continued operation of schools. There is a particular focus on supporting parents and students through the appropriate use of media channels, through schools themselves and on **gov.ie**

* **4.What is a COVID-19 Response Plan?**

A Covid-19 Response Plan is designed to support the staff and Board of Management (BOM) in putting measures in place that aim to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the school environment.

The Covid-19 Response Plan details the policies and practices necessary for a school to meet the Government’s ‘*Return to Work Safely Protocol’*, the Department of Education plan for school reopening and to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19 in the school environment.

It is important that the resumption of school-based teaching and learning and the reopening of school facilities complies with the public health advice and guidance documents prepared by the Department. Doing so minimises the risk to pupils, staff and others. The response plan supports the sustainable reopening of school where the overriding objective is to protect the health of staff and pupils while promoting the educational and development needs of the pupils in the school. The COVID-19 response plan is a living document and will be updated in line with the public health advice as appropriate for primary and special schools.

In line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol, the key to a safe and sustainable return to work, and reopening of schools requires strong communication and a shared collaborative approach between the BOM, staff, pupils and parents.

The assistance and cooperation of all staff, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors is critical to the success of the plan.

* **5.Scoil Molaise’s COVID-19 Policy**

A COVID-19 policy outlines the commitment of Scoil Molaise to implement the plan and help prevent the spread of the virus. The policy will be signed and dated by the chairperson and principal of the BOM at the BOM meeting on the 18/08/2020 and will then be brought to the attention of the staff, pupils, parents and others. Scoil Molaise's COVID-19 policy can be found at ***Appendix 1.***

* **6.Planning and Preparing for Return to School**

The BOM aims to facilitate the resumption of school based teaching and learning and the return to the workplace of staff. The return to the workplace must be done safely and in strict adherence to the public health advice and any guidance issued by the Department of Education.

Details for the safe reopening of the school facility and the applicable controls are outlined in this document.

Before reopening Scoil Molaise for the 2020/21 school year the school will need to have processes in place to include the following:

* Arrangements to keep up to date with public health advice, changes to any Government plans for the safe reopening of society and Department of Education updates;
* Arrangements to pass on this information in a timely manner to staff, pupils, parents and others as required;
* Ensured that staff have reviewed the training materials provided by the Department of Education ***(details at Section 7);***
* Provided staff with access to the Return to Work (RTW) form (***details at Section 8);***
* Identified a Lead Worker representative ***(details at Section 9);***
* Displayed posters and other signage to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 ***(details at Section 10);***
* Made the necessary changes to the school or classroom layout if necessary to support the redesign of classrooms to support physical distancing ***(details at Section 18);***
* Removed unnecessary clutter to facilitate ongoing cleaning of the school taking into account the importance of having educational materials to create a stimulating learning environment;
* Updated the health and safety risk assessment ***(details at Section 12);***
* Made necessary arrangements to limit access to the school to necessary visitors and maintain records of contacts to the school ***(details at 13)***;
* Reviewed the school buildings to check the following:
* Does the water system need flushing at outlets following low usage to prevent Legionella disease;
* Has school equipment and mechanical ventilation been checked for signs of deterioration or damage before being used again;
* Have bin collections and other essential services resumed.

There are checklists in place to assist the management of Scoil Molaise on the details of what is needed for these arrangements in the Appendices of this plan.

* **7.Induction Training**

All staff of Scoil Molaise will undertake and complete Covid-19 Induction Training prior to returning to the school building. The aim of such training is to ensure that staff have full knowledge and understanding of the following:

* Latest up to-date advice and guidance on public health;
* Covid-19 symptoms;
* What to do if a staff member or pupil develops symptoms of Covid-19 while at school;
* Outline of the Covid-19 response plan.

Staff will be kept fully informed of the control measures in place in the school and their duties and responsibilities in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and will be updated with any changes to the control measures or guidance available from the public health authorities.

If a staff member is unsure about any aspect of the Covid-19 Response Plan, the associated control measures, or his/her duties, he/she should immediately seek guidance from the Principal, who is supported in this role by the BOM.

**Note: Induction Training for reopening schools in the new school year has been developed by the Department. This will be made available to all schools and staff in advance of school reopening.**

[**Details of the training HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/dd7fb-induction-training-for-reopening-schools/"can be found here.**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CMolaise1%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5CMicrosoft%5CWord%5CDetails%20of%20the%20training%20HYPERLINK%20%22https%3A%5Cwww.gov.ie%5Cen%5Cpublication%5Cdd7fb-induction-training-for-reopening-schools%5C%22can%20be%20found%20here)

A national information campaign to support parents and pupils will happen in advance of schools reopening on issues such as COVID-19 awareness and to help minimise the risk of introduction and spread of the virus in schools.

* **8.Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)**

In order to return to the workplace of Scoil Molaise, staff must complete a **Return to Work (RTW)** form, which is available online or from the principal. A copy is attached also at ***Appendix 2.***

A RTW form should be completed and returned **3 days** before returning to work.

The principal will also provide details of the **Induction Training** for completion by staff and details of any additional health and safety measures in place in the school to facilitate the staff member’s return to the school facility.

There are some school staff who may be unable to return to school. Current public health guidelines have identified these people as being in groups who are defined as being at **very high risk.** This will be updated in line with public health advice.

[**People at very high riskHYPERLINK "https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/people-at-higher-risk.html" (extremely vulnerable):**](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/people-at-higher-risk.html)

The list of people in very high risk groups include people who:

* are over 70 years of age - even if fit and well
* have had an organ transplant
* are undergoing active chemotherapy for [cancer](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/cancer-patients.html)
* are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
* have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
* are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
* are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
* have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
* have severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, [severe asthma](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/asthma.html), pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and [severe COPD](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/copd.html)
* have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
* are [taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/weak-immune-system.html) (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)
* have a serious heart condition and are pregnant

The advice for this group is available from the HSE. Details of the arrangements that will apply for these staff, which will be in accordance with those applying for the public service generally, will be updated by the Department of Education following consultation with management bodies and unions and a circular will issue to all schools.

* **9.Lead Worker Representative**

The Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

This section sets out how the provisions will operate in schools. The process for appointment of the lead worker representative in schools has been agreed centrally between the Department of Education and the education partners.

Responsibility for the development and implementation of the Covid-19 Response Plan and the associated control measures lies primarily with the Board of Management and school management.

Strong communication and a shared collaborative approach is key to protecting against the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. Adherence to the Return to Work Protocol will only be achieved if everyone has a shared responsibility in implementing the measures contained within the Protocol in Scoil Molaise.

If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the Covid-19 Response Plan, control measures or the adherence to such measures by staff, pupils or others he/she should contact the lead worker(s) who will engage with the principal/BOM.

**Role of the Lead Worker Representative**

In summary, the role of the LWR is to:

* Represent all staff in the workplace regardless of role, and be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts;
* Work collaboratively with school management to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of employees in relation to COVID-19;
* Keep up to date with the latest COVID-19 public health advice;
* In conjunction with school management, promote good hygiene practices such as washing hands regularly and maintaining good respiratory etiquette along with maintaining social distancing in accordance with public health advice;
* Assist school management with the implementation of measures to suppress COVID-19 in the workplace in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol and current public health advice;
* In conjunction with school management, monitor adherence to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
* Conduct regular reviews of safety measures;
* Report any issues of concern immediately to school management and keep records of such issues and actions taken to rectify them;
* Consult with the school management on the school’s COVID-19 Response Plan in the event of someone developing COVID-19 while in school including the location of an isolation area and a safe route to that area;
* Following any incident, assess with the school management any follow up action that is required;
* Consult with colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace;
* Make representations to school management on behalf of their colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace.

Scoil Molaise will appoint one Lead Worker Representative.

As Scoil Molaise has less than 30 staff, a Deputy Lead Worker Representative will be appointed in addition to the LWR. The role of the Deputy LWR will be to deputise as LWR where the LWR is absent.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Name(s) of lead worker representative:*** | ***Contact details:*** |
| (L.W.R.) Honor Ryan (D.L.W.R.) Shane O’Regan  | 059-9722166059-9722166 |

All staff, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors have a responsibility both as individuals and collectively to have due regard for their own health and safety and that of others and to assist with the implementation of Scoil Molaise's Covid-19 Response Plan and associated control measures.

Full details of the arrangements which will apply for the LWR in Scoil Molaise Primary School is set out at ***Appendix 3.***

* **10.Signage**

Scoil Molaise will display signage throughout the school outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.

The Department will provide printed posters to schools, with age appropriate key health messages – hand washing, sneeze and cough etiquette etc.

Please see link below to these posters which will allow schools who may wish to have an additional supply of posters available. Any such supply can be sourced locally.

Scoil Molaise will arrange to display the posters in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and toilets.

**Note: Signage has been development by the Department. This will be made available to all schools and staff in advance of school reopening.**

**The signage, once it becomes available, will be found here.**

* **11.Making Changes to School Layout**

Maintaining physical distancing in the school environment is recommended as one of the key control measures to minimize the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19. Further information on how physical distancing will be used in Scoil Molaise school environment is found at ***Section 18*** below.

Scoil Molaise will reconfigure classrooms and other areas as necessary to support physical distancing in line with the guidance in advance of school reopening.

Also clear desk dividers will be installed on all pupil desks in 3rd to 6th classes and on all teacher desks and SNA desks throughout the school to assist with social distancing in every classroom and to aide further protection of pupils and staff.

* **12.Health and Safety Risk Assessment**

COVID-19 represents a hazard in the context of health and safety in the school environment. Scoil Molaise's risk assessment to identify the control measures required to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in Scoil Molaise's setting is attached at ***Appendix 4(To be updated shortly).***

Scoil Molaise will review its emergency procedures involving, fire safety, first aid, accidents and dangerous occurrences to consider any new risks that arise due to the school’s COVID-19 Response Plan. Any changes to the school's existing emergency procedures will be documented and incorporated into the school’s safety statement.

Scoil Molaise will also review its existing risk assessments to consider any new risks that may arise due to the school’s COVID-19 Response Plan. Any changes to Scoil Molaise’s current risk assessments will also be documented and incorporated into the school safety statement.

**First Aid/Emergency Procedure**

The standard First Aid/emergency procedure shall continue to apply in Scoil Molaise. In an emergency or in case of a serious incident, an ambulance or the fire brigade will be called on 112/999 giving details of location and type of medical incident.

For First Aid in the yard children will receive first aid from the supervising teachers in an outdoor area. Ice packs will be kept in this area also. Each supervising teacher on the yard will have access to a portable first aid bag for use on the yard.

A small supply of first aid equipment will also be kept in a secure location within classrooms.

* **13.Access to School and Contact Log**

Access to Scoil Molaise's school building will be in line with agreed school procedures.

Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to **essential purposes** and limited to those who have **obtained prior approval from the Principal**. The only number the Principal is to be contacted on is (059 9722166). Parents will not be permitted to enter the school grounds at drop off or collection times. Parents who need to enter the school building for essential purposes are required to email(oldleighlinns@gmail.com) or phone(059 9722166) the school in advance and make an appointment. Notes can be sent in from home in the homework journal or in an envelope in the case of an emergency only. However in an emergency situation parents are encouraged to ring the school(059 9722166). Class Teachers will communicate with parents through their own individual classroom email address or by phone(059 9722166). The Department of Education Inspectorate may also need to visit Scoil Molaise to support the school as appropriate in the implementation of public health advice relating to creating a safe learning and working environment for all.

All visitors will be limited to restricted access and for essential purposes only. They will have to obtain prior approval from the Principal also. Visitors will be met at the main door by the Principal or Secretary and will have to follow school safety procedures.

The prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a crucial step in restricting the spread of the virus and protecting the health and safety of the individuals themselves and other staff, contractors and visitors at the workplace. A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities will be maintained. The school will maintain a log of staff and pupil contacts. A sample of Scoil Molaise's contact log is available at ***Appendix 5*.**

The Data Protection Commission has provided guidance on the data protection implications of the return to work protocols. This advice can be found here:

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/data-protection-implications-return-work-safely-protocol>

Scoil Molaise's school records and data will be maintained and processed in compliance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Acts. The responsibility for compliance with the legislation rests with the Board of Management of Scoil Molaise in their role as data controller.

* **14.Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools**

One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread. The risk of spreading the infection once introduced exists in all interpersonal interactions; student-student, teacher-teacher and teacher-student and must be managed in all settings.

A range of essential control measures have been implemented in Scoil Molaise to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, pupils, parents and visitors as far as possible within the school. The control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis.

It is critical that staff, pupils, parents and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements.

*Staff should note that they have a legal obligation under Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to comply with health and safety requirements and to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and other parties within the workplace.*

***How to Minimise the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into Scoil Molaise:***

Promote awareness of COVID-19 symptoms (***details at Section 15***);

* Advise staff and pupils that have symptoms not to attend school, to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
* Advise staff and pupils not to attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as a contact for person with COVID-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
* Advise staff and pupils that develop symptoms at school to bring this to the attention of the Principal promptly;
* Ensure that staff and pupils know the protocol for managing a suspected case of COVID-19 in school ***(details at Section 8);***
* Everyone entering the school building needs to perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser;
* Visitors to the school during the day shouldbe by prior arrangement and should be received at a specific contact point;
* Physical distancing (of 2m) should be maintained between staff and visitors where possible.
* **15.Know the Symptoms of COVID-19**

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Scoil Molaise it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

* High temperature
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
* Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste
* **16.Respiratory Hygiene**

All staff of Scoil Molaise will make sure that all pupils and staff and the people around them, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin.

By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and Covid-19.

* **17.Hand Hygiene**

Hand hygiene means washing hands or/and sanitising hands.

Staff and pupils of Scoil Molaise will understand why hand hygiene is important as well as when and how to wash their hands.

Scoil Molaise will promote good hygiene and display posters throughout the schools on how to wash your hands. All pupils and staff in Scoil Molaise will follow the HSE guidelines on handwashing.

All teachers will ensure that children understand and learn correct hand washing techniques from day 1 in school. This will be demonstrated to all pupils using IT and the following link from the HSE:

<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>

Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).

Use of hand hygiene facilities including wash hand basins needs to be managed so as to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitisers.

All classes will have access to three wash hand basins to avoid congestion.

There is a requirement for access to hand washing facilities after activities that are likely to soil hands, for example playing outside or certain sporting activities as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands.

Hand sanitiser dispensers will be deployed more readily at exit and entry points of schools and classrooms and care should be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risks of falls.

Footpump sanitisers will be used entering and exiting the school building in the morning, before and after each break and when leaving the building to go home in the evening. These sanitisers are non contact and will require the pupils to only pump once with their feet ensuring quick and speedy entry and exit to and from the building.

Hand sanitisers will also be in use in each classroom for quick and easy access for pupils and staff throughout the day when needed.

Warm water is preferable to hot or cold water for hand washing but if the plumbing system only supplies cold water, a soap that emulsifies easily in cold water will be used.

Wash hand basins, running water, liquid soap and hand drying facilities will be provided in all toilets, kitchens and any food preparation areas.

Hand washing facilities will be maintained in good condition and supplies of soap and towels will be topped up regularly to encourage everyone to use them.

Hot air dryers are an acceptable alternative for hand drying but must be regularly maintained. There is no evidence that hand dryers are associated with increased risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Posters displaying hand washing techniques and promoting hand washing will be placed on walls adjacent to washing facilities and can be laminated or placed in a plastic sleeve.

Hand sanitiser is suitable for use for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled (look clean).

Evidence of effectiveness is best for alcohol based hand rubs but non-alcohol based hand rubs can be used too. Alcohol based hand rubs will be used in Scoil Molaise.

When hand rubs/gels are being used in Scoil Molaise care should be taken to ensure that pupils do not ingest them as they are flammable and toxic. Students will be supervised at all times using sanitisers both entering and exiting the school building and entering and exiting classrooms. Hand sanitisers will only be attached to walls inside the classroom for use. No sanitisers will be attached to walls outside the classrooms to ensure supervision while being used.

Extra care will be taken with children in the special classes and children with special needs in mainstream.

Young children will not have independent use of containers of alcohol gel.

**Frequency of Hand Hygiene in Scoil Molaise**

Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene:

* On arrival at school;
* Before eating or drinking;
* After using the toilet;
* After playing outdoors;
* When their hands are physically dirty;
* When they cough or sneeze.

The Department has arranged for a drawdown framework to be established to enable schools purchase hand-sanitisers and any other necessary PPE supplies for use in the school. The procurement process for this framework was completed by the Department and communicated to schools on the 7th August. The Department has provided funding for the costs associated with hand sanitising and PPE requirements in schools.

Soap and towel dispensers will be available in each classroom. A pedal bin will also be in use in each classroom to ensure the safe disposal of paper towels through non contact means.

* **18.Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing can be usefully applied in Scoil Molaise allowing for greater flexibility when needed. It must be applied in a practical way to recognise that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue. Physical distancing will look different across the various ages and stages of learning. Care should be taken to avoid generating tension or potential conflict and some flexibility in the implementation of measures may be required at times.

It is also recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from pupils and it is not appropriate that they would always be expected to do so where this could have a detrimental impact on the pupil i.e. if a child sustains an injury and requires first aid.

**However, where possible staff should maintain a minimum of 1m distance and where possible 2m. They should also take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down**.

Physical distancing falls into two categories:

* Increasing separation
* Decreasing interaction

***Increasing separation***

The guidance documents provided by the Department of Education on optimal school layout and referenced at ***Section 6*** above will be used by Scoil Molaise to increase separation to the greatest degree possible

To maintain physical distancing in the classroom, Scoil Molaise will:

* Reconfigure class spaces to maximise physical distancing
* Utilise and reconfigure all available space in the school in order to maximise physical distancing

To support in the implementation of physical distancing in the classroom, Scoil Molaise has adopted classroom layouts (including arrangements for special classes) which are in accordance with the public health advice, and assumes

* Room is clear of any unnecessary furniture/shelves etc. on the walls
* A variety of classroom sizes.

[A link to the suite of illustrHYPERLINK "https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/82023/7612d390-4a73-4afb-ba06-5d1c41bd5a0a.pdf"ative primary classroom layoutsHYPERLINK "https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/82023/7612d390-4a73-4afb-ba06-5d1c41bd5a0a.pdf" HYPERLINK "https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/82023/7612d390-4a73-4afb-ba06-5d1c41bd5a0a.pdf"is HYPERLINK "https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/82023/7612d390-4a73-4afb-ba06-5d1c41bd5a0a.pdf"available here.](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/82023/7612d390-4a73-4afb-ba06-5d1c41bd5a0a.pdf)

[A link to illustrative special classes is available here.](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/81948/36874b14-f604-4966-b8c8-bc2954b73bbd.pdf)

Funding has been provided under the enhanced minor works grant to facilitate this classroom re-configuration works.

Physical distancing is not a requirement for Junior Infants to 2nd Class. In these classrooms children will be organised into pods. Each pod will have 4/5 students in it. Each pod will be at least 1m from other pods within the room. However as Physical distancing is not a requirement for Junior Infants to 2nd Class children with in these pods will not sit 1m from each other. Pods will be rotated throughout the year by class teachers.

Physical distancing is a requirement for pupils in 3rd to 6th Classes. These children will be seated 1m in distance from each other either at single desks or at grouped desks. Each desk will be at least 1m from other desks in the room. Clear desk dividers will be installed on the pupil desks for additional protection.

**The teacher’s desk will be at least 1m and where possible 2m away from pupil desks. A clear desk divider will also be installed on the teacher's desk.**

***Decreasing interaction***

A common-sense approach will be adopted in Scoil Molaise, recognising the limits to which this can be achieved between pupils.

In Scoil Molaise a distance of 1m will be maintained between desks or between individual pupils. It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors. Therefore achieving this recommendation in the first four years of primary school, is not a pre-requisite to reopening Scoil Molaise for all pupils.

Where possible work stations should be allocated consistently to the same staff and children rather than having spaces which are shared.

The risk of infection may be reduced by structuring pupils and their teachers into Class Bubbles (i.e. a class grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible) and discrete groups or “Pods” within those class bubbles, to the extent that this is practical.

If the class is divided into Pods, there should be at least (1m distance) between individual Pods within the Class Bubble and between individuals in the pod, whenever possible(Exception-Junior Infants to 2nd Class).

Generally speaking the objective is to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people in different Class Bubbles (and Pods within those Class Bubbles) as much as possible, rather than to avoid all contact between Pods, as the latter will not always be possible.

The aim of the system within the school is that class grouping mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until departure at the end of the school day. However Integration of special class children will continue with adherance to public health guidelines. The Pods within those Class Bubbles is an additional measure, to limit the extent of close contact within the Class Bubble.

Pod sizes should be kept as small as is likely to be reasonably practical in the specific classroom context.

To the greatest extent possible, pupils and teaching staff will consistently be in the same Class Bubbles although this will not be possible at all times(Integration of special class children within the two special classes and within mainstream/Inclass teaching sessions with Learning Support and Resource Teacher).

Different Class Bubbles will have separate areas in the yard at break or meal times.

Clear lines on the ground will indicate the separate areas for each class bubble. each class bubble will use the same area for a week at a time, rotating after each weekend.

Sharing educational material between Pods will be avoided/minimised where possible.

All educational materials/toys(Aistear)/PE Equipment will be washed or disinfected daily.

Each child will store their belongings in a box under their table and no sharing of books or belongings will be permitted.

Coats will be kept in the classrooms on the back of chairs or portable hooks.

Chairs in each classroom will be labelled with the children's names on them.

No sharing of water/sand tables will be permitted.

Children will be asked to bring in their own bottle or drinking container and enough drinks for lunch and break as they will not be permitted to leave the classroom and wander freely through the hallways to fill bottles.

Staff members who move from class bubble to class bubble will be limited as much as possible.

***Additional measures to decrease interaction include:***

Limit interaction on arrival and departure and in hallways and other shared areas.

As with previous years, all children naturally stagger in the mornings. Upon arrival at Scoil Molaise, all children are asked to arrive at school between 9.10am and 9.20am. Please do not arrive earlier than 9.10am as children will not be permitted to enter school grounds if they do and must remain in their cars or on buses until 9.10am.

Upon arrival children will walk on and follow their own class line marked clearly on the ground which will be colour coded to avoid confusion and marking points of 1m will be clearly seen on these class lines. This will ensure that children from different classes will not interact with each other.

SNAs will meet and greet children in the special classes at their buses in the school carpark and escort them safely to their own classroom.

Class Teachers will meet, greet and supervise pupils upon arrival at their entry and exit points from 9.10am and lead them into their classroom until the bell rings. No children will be congregating in the yard before school.

Any child arriving late to school must ring ahead and wait to be admitted to the building as no child will be allowed to enter the building without being supervised using the footpump sanitiser.

Normal supervision arrangements will occur at breaktimes.

Each class bubble will have their own entry and exit point to the building for use at all times i.e. in the morning, before and after each break and in the evening. No pupil will be permitted to enter or exit the building except through their own class entry and exit point.

When each break time is over children will line up on their own line at the back of the school and social distance 1m apart.

At home time Junior and Senior Infants will line up with their class teacher at the rail at the front of the school at markings 1m apart. The class teacher will send each child to their parent at the gate or person collecting them. Parents are asked to maintain a distance of 2m outside the school gates from each other while waiting to collect their child and to promptly leave the school environs.

All children travelling on buses will leave the school building at 2.45pm.

1st & 2nd class children will leave the school building promptly at 2.50pm.

3rd & 4th Classes will leave school promptly at 2.55pm.

5th & 6th Class pupils will leave school at 3.00pm.

Any child whose parent does not arrive on time to collect them from school will remain on their line at the front.

Social physical contact (hand to hand greetings, hugs) will be discouraged.

Where pupils need to move about within the classroom to perform activities (access to a shared resource) it should be organized to the greatest degree possible to minimize congregation at the shared resource.

Staff and pupils should avoid sharing of personal items.

Encourage pupils to avoid behaviours that involve hand to mouth contact (putting pens/pencils in the mouth).

Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets, the contact surface of the device should be cleaned regularly and hand hygiene encouraged. Wipes only should be used, no electronic device should be sprayed with a cleaning agent.

No children will be sent on messages or to collect equipment from other classrooms, to the office or the staffroom.

**Physical Distancing outside of the classroom and within the school**

***School drop off/collection***

Arrangements for dropping off/collecting pupils will be arranged to encourage physical distancing of 2m where possible.

Walking/cycling to school will be encouraged as much as possible. Pupils with bikes will be asked to park their bike as normal in the bike shed and then proceed to their colour coded line for their own entry point.

Parents will be asked to respect arrangements to avoid congregation of people at the school gates. Parents will be asked not to loiter around the school gate at drop off and collection time. It is strictly set down and go at all times.

Parents collecting Junior and Senior Infants at 2.00pm will be asked to maintain a distance of 2m from each other at the school gates. Parents collecting children from other classes will be asked to remain in their cars as much as possible, especially if parked adjacent to the school grounds. However parents parked on the far side of the road are asked to assist their child crossing the road but to maintain a distance of 2m at the school gate while doing so.

Arrangements will be made to maintain a distance of 2m between parents and guardians and between parents and guardians and school staff.

The aim of these arrangements is to avoid congregation of people at the school gates where physical distancing may not be respected.

Staggered pick up times as indicated above will be enforced when pupils are finished school for the day and leaving the building.

As highlighted previously each classroom will have their own access points for entry and exit to the school building so as to reduce congestion.

Also as mentioned previously each pupil will be heading straight to their classroom in the mornings.

***Staff***

A distance of 2m will be recommended for physical distancing by staff. This is particularly relevant to distancing between adults when they are not engaged in teaching such as the staff room and arriving to work.

If 2m cannot be maintained in staff groups, as much as distance as is possible and guidance on face covering should be observed.

All staff members will be required to wear PPE gear (i.e. face shields/masks) especially where a distance of 2m is not possible.

Physical distancing will be observed between staff members within the staff room through the use of staggered breaks etc. No more than 3 members of staff will be permitted in the staffroom at any one time.

Staff meetings should be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing.

A no hand shaking policy will be implemented in Scoil Molaise.

The gathering of school staff at the beginning or end of the school day will be minimised.

Staff can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible.

***Staff Room***

Physical distancing will be applied in the staffroom. 3 staff members only will be permitted to use the staffroom at any one time. Class teachers will be encouraged to eat their lunch in their classrooms as much as possible and avoid the staffroom completely if possible.

No more than 3 people will be permitted in the staffroom at any one time.

A queue management system will be implemented by staff for the use of the microwave, toaster, grill or kettle in the staffroom.

All staff must sanitise their hands before entering and after leaving the staffroom.

No pupils will be permitted to enter the staffroom.

***Corridors and Hallways***

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection. All pupils and staff will be encouraged to avoid physical contact and avoid informal group discussions.

***Yard/Supervision***

The risk of transmission from contact with outside surfaces or play areas is low.

PE and outdoor activities will be scheduled on a timetable and staggered to avoid overcrowding in the yard at any one time and at the entrance and exits.

There will be separate areas within the school yard for pupils from each classroom.

It is not possible to maintain physical distancing when pupils in primary play together outdoors, but in so far as practical it is helpful to keep to their own classroom areas for a period of a week at a time.

One teacher will supervise out front and side and one teacher will supervise areas at back.

Children will not be permitted to enter the building during break time. Any child that needs to use the toilet while on yard will have to ask the supervising teacher who will then arrange for the child to be facilitated. Teachers will encourage children to use the toilet while in the classroom before they go out on the yard to avoid the need for children to re-enter the building during break times.

When break time is over pupils will line up on their class lines at the back of the school while maintaining a distance of 1m before being collected by their teacher.

Children will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities.

Equipment sharing will be minimised and shared equipment will be cleaned between uses by different people especially after PE lessons.

* **19.Use of PPE in Schools**

PPE(i.e.face shields(visors)/masks) will be required to be worn by all staff members within Scoil Molaise(i.e. Teachers/SNAs/Anxcillary staff/Bus Escorts) according to current occupational and public health guidance. Under normal circumstancesSNA staff especially will need to use PPE gear due to the nature of certain work activities or work areas. The wearing of PPE gear by all staff is particularly important when considering the following:

* Assisting with intimate care needs
* Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation
* Where staff are particularly vulnerable to infection but are not on the list of those categorised as people in very high risk groups, or may be living with those who are in the very high risk category.

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment they will apply standard precautions as per usual practice.

**Masks**

Cloth face coverings are not suitable for children under the age of 13 and anyone who:

* Has trouble breathing;
* Is unconscious or incapacitated;
* Is unable to remove it without help;
* Has special needs to who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the face covering.

Therefore wearing of face masks for pupils in Scoil Molaise will not be compulsory.

However if a pupil has Covid-19 symptoms and needs to be taken to the isolation room via the isolation route they will be required to wear a face covering or mask.

For staff, face coverings will still be required especially if physical distancing of 2m is not possible.

For Teachers and SNAs of children with special needs or in special classes, wearing a face covering will conceal facial expression and make communication difficult. In these instances the use of a visor as an alternative will be considered especially where there is a concern regarding prolonged close contact and exposure to fluid/respiratory droplets.

All staff will be trained on how to use face masks properly.

[Advice on how to properly use fHYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/facecoverings/"ace coverings can be found here.](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/facecoverings/)

All staff will disinfect face shields or wash masks daily.

**Gloves**

The use of disposable gloves in the school by pupils or staff is not generally appropriate but may be necessary for intimate care settings. Routine use does not protect the wearer and may expose others to risk from contaminated gloves.

Routine use of disposable gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.

* **20.Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities**

The Department will work with stakeholders to provide more detailed advice on certain schools activities in advance of school reopening.

*Choir/Music Performance*

Choir practices/performances and music practices/performances involving wind instruments may pose a higher level of risk and special consideration should be given to how they are held ensuring that the room is well-ventilated and the distance between performers is maintained. Music Lessons with visiting teachers will not be possible in the first term. However this will be reviewed again in the second term.

*Sport Activities*

Scoil Molaise will refer to the HPSC guidance on Return to Sport. A link to return to sport protocols is found here.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/07253-return-to-sport-protocols/>

Pupils and staff will engage in sporting activities with the school itself including PE lessons and outdoor activities. However competitions with external schools will not be happening this school year.

Swimming

It is unlikely that students in Scoil Molaise will attend swimming lessons this year due to the high risk of this activity outside of the school environs in an environment that has a high number of people from the general public.

Homework Club

Due to the fact that we cannot allow children from different classes/classrooms to mix and because we have inadequate space this year to ensure social distancing there will be no homework club in term 1 operating in Scoil Molaise. This will be reviewed at Christmas.

Transition year Students.

Transition Year Students will not be accommodated this year.

*Shared Equipment*

Toys

All toys will be cleaned on a regular basis in Scoil Molaise either daily/weekly. Toys used in Aistear or in pods will be cleaned daily. Other less used toys will be cleaned weekly. This will remove dust and dirt that can harbour germs.

Toys that are visibly dirty or contaminated with blood or bodily fluids will be taken out of use immediately for cleaning or disposal.

When purchasing toys for Scoil Molaise, ones that are easy to clean and disinfect will be chosen (when necessary).

If cloth or soft toys are used they should be machine washable.

Young pupils and pupils with special educational needs may be inclined to put toys into their mouths. These include jigsaws, puzzles and toys. These children will be supervised at all times for health & safety reasons. All such toys for use with pupils with special needs will be washed and disinfected.

All play equipment will be checked for signs of damage for example breaks or cracks. If they cannot be repaired or cleaned they will be discarded.

Clean toys and equipment will be stored in a clean container or clean cupboard. The manufacturer’s instructions should always be followed.

At this time soft modelling materials and play dough where used will be for individual use only.

Pupils are asked to have two pencil cases, one to be kept in school and the other to be kept at home for homework.

All homework books will be given to children on a Monday kept at home all week and brought back in on a Friday to the classroom.

Cleaning Procedure for Toys

* Wash the toy in warm soapy water, using a brush to get into crevices.
* Rinse the toy in clean water.
* Thoroughly dry the toy.
* Some hard plastic toys may be suitable for cleaning in the dishwasher.
* Toys that cannot be immersed in water that is electronic or wind up should be wiped with a damp cloth and dried.
* In some situations toys/equipment may need to be disinfected following cleaning for example: toys/equipment that pupils place in their mouths. Toys/equipment that have been soiled with blood or body fluids or toys where a case of COVID-19 has been identified.
* If disinfection is required: A chlorine releasing disinfectant should be used diluted to a concentration of 1,000ppm available chlorine. The item should be rinsed and dried thoroughly.

Art – Where possible pupils will be encouraged to have their own individual art and equipment supplies. Children will be required to have their own personal items i.e. pencils, colours, ruler, rubbers etc as these will not be permitted to be shared.

Electronics – Shared electronic devices such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards will be cleaned between use and consideration will be given to the use of wipeable covers for electronics to facilitate cleaning.

Musical Equipment/Instruments – To the greatest extent possible, instruments will not be shared between pupils and if sharing is required, the instruments will be cleaned between uses.

Library Policy – Where practical pupils should have their own books. Textbooks that are shared should be covered in a wipeable plastic covering that can be wiped with a suitable household cleaning agent between uses. Pupils will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene after using any shared item.

Shared Sports Equipment – Equipment sharing will be minimised and shared equipment between uses by different people will be cleaned.

Paying School Fees

All parents will be issued with Scoil Molaise's banking details and parents will be encouraged when paying school fees to electronically transfer funds rather than sending in money from home to school.

* **21.Hygiene and Cleaning in Schools**

The Department of Education has provided additional funding to schools to support the enhanced cleaning required to minimise the risks of COVID-19.

The specific advice in relation to school cleaning in Scoil Molaise is set out in the HPSC advice and will be covered in the induction training. This advice sets out the cleaning regime required to support schools to prevent COVID-19 infections and the enhanced cleaning required in the event of a suspected case/s of COVID-19. This cleaning advice will be applied to all areas of the school as appropriate.

Scoil Molaise will take particular care of the hygiene arrangements for hand washing and toilet facilities.

Only one child at a time will be permitted to leave a classroom and use the toilet. This is to avoid over crowding in toilet areas. Pupils will be required to wash their hands after using the toilet and to sanitise upon re-entry to the classroom.

Each Classroom will have their own toilet for boys and girls and no other class will be permitted to use any other class toilet.

In summary, each school setting in Scoil Molaise will be cleaned at **least once per day**. Additional cleaning will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, hand rails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Under no circumstances should these cleaning materials be removed from the building. These cleaning materials will be stored in a safe place and away from children.

Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.

There will be a regular collection of used waste disposal bags from offices and other areas within the school facility**.**

Shower facilities shall not be available for use by staff or pupils due to the increased risk associated with communal shower facilities and areas. This shall be reviewed in line with government guidance.

Staff must use and clean their own equipment and utensils (cup, cutlery, plate etc.)

Parents will be required to wash uniforms regularly during the week.

***Cleaning/Disinfecting rooms where a pupil/staff member with suspected COVID-19 was present***

The room will be cleaned as soon as practicably possible.

Once the room is vacated the room will not be reused until the room has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry.

Disinfection only works on things that are clean. When disinfection is required it is always as well as cleaning.

Person assigned to cleaning should avoid touching their face while they are cleaning and should wear household gloves and a plastic apron.

Clean the environment and furniture using disposable cleaning cloths and a household detergent followed by disinfection with a chlorine based product (household bleach).

Pay special attention to frequently touched surfaces, the back of chairs, couches, door handles and any surfaces that are visibly soiled with body fluids.

Once the room has been cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry, the room can be reused.

If a pupil or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 spent time in a communal area like the staffroom, play area or if they used the toilet or bathroom facilities, then the areas will be cleaned with household detergent followed by a disinfectant (as outlined in the HPSC interim health advice) as soon as is practically possible.

* **22.Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19**

**Staff or pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.**

**Parents will be informed about the symptoms of Covid-19 and are asked to keep their child at home if they have a temperature, cough of any kind, difficulty breathing or trouble tasting. It is up to every parent to ensure they have their own childcare arrangements in place to mind children who need to stay at home or who need to be collected from school if contacted by any member of staff**. **It is vital that parents co-operate with us in these matters and promptly collect their child/children if contacted by a member of staff**.

The following outlines how Scoil Molaise will deal with a suspected case that may arise in the school setting.

A designated isolation area will be identified within the school building. The possibility of having more than one person displaying signs of COVID-19 will be considered and a contingency plan for dealing with additional cases will be put in place. The designated isolation area will be behind a closed door and away from other staff and pupils.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures that will be implemented:

If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately;

The pupil will be isolated and the Principal will accompany the individual to the designated isolation area via the isolation route, keeping at least 2m away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic person at all times; The Principal will supervise the child until they are collected.

If there are a large number of pupils who are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 while at school and the isolation area has reached capacity then the following will be considered.

The isolation area does not have to be a room but if it is not a room it will be 2m away from others in the room;

Remember that the virus is spread by droplets and is not airborne so physical separation is enough to reduce the risk of spread to others even if they are in the same room;

Even If it is possible to maintain a distance of 2m a staff member caring for a pupil will wear a face covering or mask. Gloves will not be used as the virus does not pass through skin;

A mask will be provided for the person presenting with symptoms. He/she will wear the mask if in a common area with other people or on route to the isolation room and while exiting the premises;

The individual who is displaying symptoms will immediately be directed to go home/be brought home by parents who will call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home;

If for unavoidable reasons parents cannot immediately collect their child from school, they should do so as soon as possible. Each parent needs to be aware that they could be contacted at any stage to colllect their child if they are a suspected Covid-19 case and have arrangements made to do so with their place of work and with their child minding arrangements. The child presenting with symptoms will remain in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and if necessary calling their doctor will be facilitated. The individual will avoid touching people, surfaces and objects. Advice will be given to the person presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided;

Upon collecting their child, the Principal will escort the child outside the school building to their parents/child minder/relation. Parents or the person who is designated by parents to collect their child will remain outside the building until the Principal escorts the child outside.

If the child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.

If the person is a staff member they will inform the Principal immediately that they are presenting with symptoms of Covid-19 while at school and follow the isolation route to either the isolation room or to exit the building. If the person is well enough to go home, they can drive themselves home or arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member depending on their condition, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to transport a suspected case of Covid-19 be they a child or staff member;

If the staff member is too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect;

Arrangements will then be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved – (***details at Section 21***).

**The HSE not the Principal/Deputy Principal will inform any staff/parents 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 and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times**.

**23.Special Educational Needs**

**Additional considerations for those with Special Educational Needs**

For children with special educational needs (SEN) maintaining physical distancing in many instances will not be practical or appropriate to implement. This is particularly true for integration of children in special classes. The focus will therefore be on emphasising that parents/guardians should have a heightened awareness of signs, symptoms or changes in baseline which suggests illness/COVID-19 infection and where symptoms are present children should not attend school.

Parents of children with special needs should check their child's temperature at home before they leave for school in the mornings.

Similarly parents of all children should check their child’s temperature at home before they leave for school in the mornings.

Similarly staff should be aware of their responsibility not to attend work if they develop signs or symptoms of respiratory illness.

*Hand hygiene*

Children who are unable to wash their hands by themselves will be assisted to clean their hands using soap and water or a hand sanitiser (if their hands are visibly clean) as outlined previously.

*Equipment*

Some children may have care needs (physical or behavioural) which requires the use of aids and appliances and/or medical equipment for example toileting aids, moving and handling equipment, respiratory equipment. Where cleaning of aids and appliances is carried out in the school a cleaning schedule will be provided, detailing when and how the equipment is cleaned and the cleaning products to be used in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions.

The following points can guide the development of such cleaning schedule:

* Equipment used to deliver care should be visibly clean;
* Care equipment should be cleaned in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions. Cleaning is generally achieved using a general purpose detergent and warm water.
* Equipment that is used on different children must be cleaned and, if required, disinfected immediately after use and before use by another child e.g. toileting aids;
* If equipment is soiled with body fluids:
* First clean thoroughly with detergent and water;
* Then disinfect by wiping with a freshly prepared solution of disinfectant;
* Rinse with water and dry.
* **24.Staff Duties**

Staff have a statutory obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of their colleagues and other parties. The cooperation and assistance of all staff is essential to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 and to protect health and safety as far as possible within the school. All staff have a key role to play. In this regard and in order to facilitate a safe return to work, these duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Adhere to the School COVID-19 Response Plan and the control measures outlined.
* Complete the RTW form before they return to work.
* Must inform the Principal if there are any other circumstances relating to COVID19, not included in the form, which may need to be disclosed to facilitate their safe return to the workplace.
* Must complete COVID-19 Induction Training and any other training required prior to their return to school.
* Must be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices.
* Coordinate and work with their colleagues to ensure that physical distancing is maintained.
* Make themselves aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor their own wellbeing.
* Self-isolate at home and contact their GP promptly for further advice if they display any symptoms of COVID-19.
* Not return to or attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 under any circumstances.
* If they develop any symptoms of COVID-19 whilst within the school facility, they should adhere to the procedure outlined above.
* Keep informed of the updated advice of the publ**ic** health authorities and comply with same.
* **25.COVID-19 related Absence Management**

The management of a COVID-19 related absence will be managed in line with agreed procedures with the Department of Education.

* **26.Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme**

The Department recognises the need for school staff wellbeing and collective self-care.  Support for school staff wellbeing will be provided by Department Support Services including the PDST and CSL, as well as by the HSE’s Health Promotion Team. An [Occupational Health Strategy](https://www.education.ie/en/Education-Staff/Information/Occupational-Health-Strategy/) is in place as a supportive resource for staff in schools. The aim of the Occupational Health Strategy is to promote the health and wellbeing of employees in the workplace, with a strong focus on prevention. The Occupational Health Strategy comprises the Employee Assistance Service and the Occupational Health Service. The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) is provided by Spectrum.Life under the logo of *‘Wellbeing Together: Folláinne Le Chéile’.*

Under the EAS, employees have a dedicated free-phone confidential helpline 1800 411 057 available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year providing advice on a range of issues such as wellbeing, legal, financial, mediation, management support etc.  Where required, short-term counselling is available to employees and their families (over the age of 18 years and living at home).  A bespoke wellbeing portal and app which offers access to podcasts and blogs on topics around wellbeing and mental health, family life, exercise and nutrition is also available.  In addition online cognitive behavioural therapy is provided.   As part of the

services provided by Spectrum.Life a Mental Health Promotion Manager is available to develop and deliver evidence based mental health and wellbeing initiatives to reduce stigma and improve mental health literacy and to increase engagement with the service. They will also be providing a series of webinars and presentations to promote staff wellbeing in schools as schools reopen and during the upcoming school year.

**27.Teaching and Learning in Scoil Molaise including Distance Learning.**

Teachers will follow as normal the Primary School Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills for each class level bearing in mind that the children's education will start from where they left off at the end of the last school year. Also in line with DES guidelines priority will be given to S.P.H.E(Social, Personal and Health Education), P.E(Physical Education), Language(Irish & English) and Mathematics in the initial weeks of reopening.

Within S. P. H. E. the areas of Relationships and Sexuality Education and The Stay Safe Programme(Child Abuse Prevention Programme) will be taught within the first term this school year.

Priority will also be given within the S.P.H.E. Curriculum to children's mental health and wellbeing as it is acknowledged that this have been a particularly challenging time for all students especially those with special needs.

Increased levels of outdoor learning where possible and weather permitting will also feature strongly.

**28.Children who cannot attend the school building for a variety of reasons.**

Distance Learning will continue for children who cannot attend the school building for long periods due to being in the high risk category or because they have been told to self-isolate by their GP or because they have been a close contact of a confirmed Covid-19 case or because they themselves have been confirmed as having Covid-19.

If children have been advised to self-isolate for any reason they must provide the school with a medical certificate from their GP.

Each class teacher will be responsible for the teaching and learning of pupils in their classrooms if they cannot attend the school building for long periods of time and distance learning will be facilitated for these pupils. All teachers will use SEESAW or GOOGLE CLASSROOM when dealing with these pupils as well as emails to facilitate their teaching and learning and will liaise regularly with their students and their parents. Parents are encouraged to oversee the completion of work by students who have to stay at home as given to them by their class teacher.

Every effort will be made to assist pupils and parents who are experiencing difficulties at home with lack of IT equipment or internet difficulties.

**29.REMINDER TO ANYONE ATTENDING SCHOOL WHO HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD:**

Government policy, which is based on public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone. It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’(‘’green’’), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

**APPENDIX 1 COVID-19 Policy Statement**

Scoil Molaise 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
* implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

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 and education partners.

Signed: \_\_***Maria Doyle(Chairperson)***\_\_ Date: \_***18/08/2020***\_\_\_

 ***Mandy Ryan(Principal)***

**Appendix 2**  **Pre-Return to Work Questionnaire COVID-19**

This questionnaire must be completed by staff **at least 3 days** in advance of returning to work.

If the answer is Yes to any of the below questions, you are advised to seek medical advice before returning to work.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Questions** | **YES** | **NO** |
| 1. | Do you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days? |  |  |
| 2. | Have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days? |  |  |
| 3. | Have you been advised by the HSE that you are you a close contact of a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? |  |  |
| 4. | Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time? |  |  |
| 5. | Have you been advised by a doctor to cocoon at this time? |  |  |
| 6. | Have you been advised by your doctor that you are in the very high risk group?If yes, please liaise with Principal re return to work and follow the agreed DES arrangements for very high risk groups |  |  |

I confirm, to the best of my knowledge that I have no symptoms of COVID-19, am not self-isolating or awaiting results of a COVID-19 test and have not been advised to restrict my movements.

Please note: The school is collecting this sensitive personal data for the purposes of maintaining safety within the workplace in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legal basis for collecting this data is based on vital public health interests and maintaining occupational health and this data will be held securely in line with our retention policy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 3** **Lead Worker Representative – Primary and Special Schools**

The COVID-19 Return to Work Safely Protocol is designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The Protocol was developed following discussion and agreement between the Government, Trade Unions and Employers at the Labour Employer Economic Forum.

The Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

The purpose of this section is to set out the provisions in respect of the LWR in schools. The operation of these arrangements will be kept under review by the parties.

This document should be read in conjunction with:

* the [COVID-19HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/22829a-return-to-work-safely-protocol/" Return to Work Safely Protocol](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/22829a-return-to-work-safely-protocol/);
* the [Guidance and FAQs for Public Service Employers during HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/news/092fff-update-on-working-arrangements-and-leave-associated-with-covid-19-fo/"COVID-19](https://www.gov.ie/en/news/092fff-update-on-working-arrangements-and-leave-associated-with-covid-19-fo/);
* COVID-19 Response Plan for Primary and Special Schools (available on the Department of Education website).

**1. Collaborative Approach**

Responsibility for the development and implementation of Scoil Molaise's COVID-19 Response Plan and the associated control measures lies primarily with the Board of Management and school management.

Strong communication and a shared collaborative approach is key to protecting against the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. Adherence to the Return to Work Protocol will only be achieved if everyone has a shared responsibility in implementing the measures contained within the Protocol in their place of work.

If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the COVID-19 Response Plan, control measures or the adherence to such measures by staff, students or others, they should contact the LWR who will engage with school management.

**2. Role of the Lead Worker Representative**

In summary, the role of the LWR is to:

* Represent all staff in the workplace regardless of role, and be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts;
* Work collaboratively with school management to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of employees in relation to COVID-19;
* Keep up to date with the latest COVID-19 public health advice;
* In conjunction with school management, promote good hygiene practices such as washing hands regularly and maintaining good respiratory etiquette along with maintaining social distancing in accordance with public health advice;
* Assist school management with the implementation of measures to suppress COVID-19 in the workplace in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol and current public health advice;
* In conjunction with school management, monitor adherence to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
* Conduct regular reviews of safety measures;
* Report any issues of concern immediately to school management and keep records of such issues and actions taken to rectify them;
* Consult with the school management on the school’s COVID-19 Response Plan in the event of someone developing COVID-19 while in school including the location of an isolation area and a safe route to that area;
* Following any incident assess with the school management any follow up action that is required;
* Consult with colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace;
* Make representations to school management on behalf of their colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace.

**3. What can a Lead Worker Representative Do?**

The LWR may consult with, and make representations to, school management on any issue of concern in relation to COVID-19. These include issues in relation to:

* Cleaning protocols and their implementation
* Physical Distancing
* Implementation of one-way systems in the school to ensure social distancing including when entering and exiting the school
* Hand Hygiene facilities including their location and whether they are stocked and maintained
* Hand sanitising
* Staff awareness around hand hygiene in the school
* Respiratory hygiene
* Personal Protective Equipment
* At Risk Groups
* Visitors/Contractors

**4. Lead Worker Representative**

Every school will appoint one Lead Worker Representative.

**5. Deputy Lead Worker Representative/ Assistant Lead Worker Representative**

As Scoil Molaise has less than 30 staff, a Deputy Lead Worker Representative will be appointed in addition to the LWR. The role of the Deputy LWR will be to deputise as LWR where the LWR is absent.

**6. Selection of Lead Worker Representative/ Deputy LWR/ Assistant LWR**

The school staff are entitled to select staff members for the LWR and Deputy LWR positions as appropriate. The LWR/ Deputy LWR/ represents all staff in the workplace regardless of role and must be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts. In this regard, if a teacher is selected for the role of LWR, then the Deputy LWR should be selected from the non-teaching staff where feasible and vice versa.

The process for the selection and appointment of the LWR/ Deputy LWR as appropriate will be arrived at by consultation and consensus at school level, through the seeking of volunteers to act in that capacity. Where there is more than one volunteer, all school staff should vote to select the LWR/ Deputy LWR.

The LWR/ Deputy LWR will, following selection by the school staff, be formally appointed by the employer. LWR/ Deputy LWR will be required to confirm, prior to taking up the role, that they have completed the provided training and that they are fully aware of the requirements of the role.

**7. Supports for the Lead Worker Representative/ Deputy LWR**

The LWR/ Deputy LWR shall be entitled to:

* Receive information and training in respect of their role [*further detail to be provided*];
* Be consulted by school management on the control measures being put in place by the school to minimise the risk of being exposed to COVID-19;
* Regular communication with school management on issues related to COVID-19;
* Be informed of changes in practice arising from COVID-19 response measures;

Where the LWR/ Deputy LWR is a teacher (including a postholder), the 10 Croke Park hours which can currently be used for planning on other than a whole school basis will be utilised by the LWR and/or Deputy LWR to carry out their duties in that role.

Where the LWR/ Deputy LWR is an SNA, 10 of the “72 hours” will be utilised by the LWR and/or Deputy LWR to carry out their duties in that role.

Where the LWR/ Deputy LWR is a Secretary or Caretaker, a re-prioritisation of duties by school management will be carried out to afford the staff member sufficient time to carry out their duties in that role.

**8. Procedure for dealing with issues that arise**

Where an issue of concern is identified by the LWR (or is notified to the LWR by a staff member), the LWR will bring this to the attention of the Principal. Action points for addressing the issue will where possible be agreed between the LWR and the Principal. Staff will be informed of the outcome.

If agreement cannot be reached, the LWR may notify the Board of Management (Chairperson of the BoM in the first instance) of the issue. Action points for addressing the issue should where possible be agreed between the LWR and the Chairperson of the BoM. Staff will be informed of the outcome.

**Glossary of Terms**

* **COVID-19 Response Plan:** plan designed to support the staff and BOM of Scoil Molaise in putting measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school environment. The plan details the policies and practices necessary for Scoil Molaise to meet the Return to Work Safely Protocol, the Department of Education plan for school reopening and to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment. COVID-19 Response Plans for Primary and Special Schools are available on the Department’s website.
* **Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF):** the forum for high level dialogue between Government, Trade Union and Employer representatives on matters of strategic national importance - involves the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Government & Employers.
* **Return to Work Protocol:** national protocol designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
* **Safety Representative:** Section 25 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 sets out the selection and role of the Safety Representative in the workplace. The rights of the Safety Representative are set out in legislation. (Note: A Safety Representative has rights and not duties under the 2005 Act). This role is separate to the LWR under COVID-19.

**Appendix 4 Risk Assessment**

COVID-19 Risk Template (List identifies COVID-19 as the hazard and outlines control measures required to deal with this risk)

**Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin**

**Updated Risk Assessments to minimise the risk of being exposed to Covid-19**

The process involved consultation with all school staff.

**Methodology used for hazard identification and control**

In line with the requirements of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (section 19) it is the policy of the BoM in Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin to address significant hazards and risks in the workplace, to access the risks to safety, health and welfare and to control these risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

The Board is committed to the ongoing identification of hazards, the assessment of the appropriate risks and the introduction of controls to deal with them. In addition, staff are involved and participate in safety, health and welfare issues within the school and are encouraged to identify and report any potential hazards that may exist and to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out.

This revised Risk Assessment includes all relevant updates and necessary control measures to minimise the risk of staff and others being exposed to Covid-19 and these will be incorporated into the Safety Statement for St. Projects in line with requirements of section 20 of the 2005 Act.

It is envisaged that additional reviews will be undertaken on a regular basis and in line with Government and public health advice to ensure that all information remains accurate, that controls are appropriate and where necessary risks are reassessed.

A **hazard** is anything with the potential to cause harm to the safety, health or welfare of staff, students, visitors and contractors – a wet or slippery floor, an unguarded machine, stressful work, a blocked entrance, hazardous chemicals etc. Hazards may be classified as physical, chemical, biological, environmental or human.

A **risk** is the likelihood that someone will be harmed by a hazard and the severity of that harm.

**Control measures:**

A control measure is an applied measure that reduces the level of risk. Control measures can be applied at the planning stage, can comprise physical measures, can be management issues and can include training. Good control measures will require a combination of some or all of these.

**Control measure principles:**

Schedule 3 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 lists the Principles of Prevention and the Board of Management undertakes to apply these principles (where practicable) in dealing with all risks within the school:

* Avoidance of risks
* Evaluation of unavoidable risks
* Combating of risks at source
* Adaptation of work to the individual
* Adaptation of workplace to technical progress
* Replacement of dangerous articles, substances or systems of work by safe or less dangerous articles, substances or systems of work
* Priority to collective protective measures over individual protective measures
* Development of an adequate prevention policy which takes account of technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social factors and the influence of factors relating to the working environment
* Appropriate training and instructions to employees.

When the safety audit identifies hazards, it is necessary to evaluate and rank them so that they can be controlled in an orderly way. The risk of a hazard is a measure of the likelihood or probability of an accident coupled with the severity of the injury or loss. The risk potential of each hazard was assessed (by ranking) by giving numerical values of between 1 and 5 to both the **severity** of the consequences and the **probability** of the event occurring. When the severity numerical factor and the probability numerical factor were multiplied together, they produced a number between 1 and 25 thereby producing the numerical values outlined in **risk rating** chart below.

**Severity x Probability = Risk Rating**

**severity**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Severity Rating** | **Interpretation** | **Numerical Value** |
| Fatality or Catastrophic | Single or multiple fatalities, widespread illness, large scale property or equipment damage | 5 |
| Major  | Serious injury or illness, significant property or equipment damage  | 4 |
| Moderate  | Injury and damage to property | 3 |
| Minor | Minor injury or illness, minor property or equipment damage | 2 |
| Trivial | No significant injury or illness, no significant property or equipment damage | 1 |

**Probability/Likelihood**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Probability Rating** | **Interpretation** | **Numerical Value** |
| Inevitable | Likely to occur either immediately or in the short term | 5 |
| Very Likely | Could occur in time or if repeated enough | 4 |
| Likely  | Likely to occur | 3 |
| Unlikely | Though unlikely, may occur over time | 2 |
| Rare  | Unlikely to occur at all | 1 |

**Risk Rating**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Numerical Value**Severity x Probability | **Descriptive risk rating** | **Interpretation** |
| 16 – 25 | **Emergency – Extremely serious**If an incident were to occur, it would be likelythat a permanent, debilitating injury or deathwould result | Risks are unacceptable and immediate action required justifying special maintenance. Activity should be halted and stopped until the hazard is eliminated or appropriate risk controls are put in place.  |
| 11 – 15  | **Severe and Serious**If an incident were to occur, it would be likelythat an injury requiring medical treatment wouldresult. | Activity can proceed but substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity or to apply interim control measures until this has been completed. |
| 6 – 10  | **Medium** If an incident were to occur, there would besome chance that an injury requiring First Aidtreatment would result | Activity can proceed but consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered. Control measures must be monitored and reviewed as required to ensure they remain suitable and sufficient. |
| 1 – 5  |  **Trivial or Negligible** If an incident were to occur, there would be littlelikelihood that an injury would result | No additional controls are necessary as these risks are considered acceptable. Activity should be regularly reviewed to ensure there is no change to the risk rating and that controls are maintained. |

**\*Note:** A numerical rating has been used in column 4 of the risk assessment sheets to describe the risk potential for the hazard identified This method has been used in an attempt to ensure that the levels of risk will be understood and clear to all those operating within the school.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Risk Communication, Education and Training** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| **Staff** | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | The Board of Management will develop a response plan for the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 following a risk assessment of the school facility. This plan will highlight the measures necessary to protect the health and safety of staff in re-opening and modifying the work arrangements within the school. The staff representative(s) will be properly consulted when developing and implementing the action plan for the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 within the school and all staff will be informed about the measures being introduced, using specific risk communication and staff engagement approaches.The Board of Management will:* Ensure that all staff receive necessary training prior to returning to work
* Provide posters, information and electronic message boards to increase awareness of Covid-19 among staff and pupils
* Promote safe individual practices within the school campus
* Engage with staff in providing feedback on the preventive measures and their effectiveness
* Provide regular information about the risk of Covid-19 using official sources, such as government agencies (HSE, HSA, etc.) and the World Health Organisation
* Emphasise the effectiveness of adopting protective measures especially good personal hygiene
* Provide specific training in the proper use of PPE for staff, where required
 | Negligible | Board of Management PrincipalStaff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/Alison Murphy/Shane O’ Regan  |
|  |  |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Hygiene**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| All staffPupilsVisitors ContractorsPublic  | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | The BoM will ensure that all staff can wash their hands regularly. Hot/Cold water and appropriate santitisers (i.e. hand gel dispensers, etc.) will be available throughout the school. Staff should: * Wash their hands properly and often. Hands should be washed:
	+ After coughing or sneezing
	+ Before and after eating or preparing food
	+ Before and after using protective gloves
	+ Before and after being on public transport
	+ When arriving and leaving the school campus
	+ After toilet use
* Cover theirmouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve when coughing and sneezing.
* Put used tissues into a bin and wash their hands
* Develop a routine of incresed cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces

The BoM will supply required cleaning products, will ensure the correct use and storage of disinfectants and will ensure all products are stored safely and securely. No employees are permitted to attend work if they display any of the symptoms below: -* Fever (temperature of 37.5 degrees or above)
* Cough
* Shortness of breath
* Breathing difficulties

Any Staff Member displaying symptoms must self-isolate and not attend school for 14 daysAny staff member living with someone who is self-isolating or waiting for a Covid-19 test must restrict their movements for 14 days. Any Staff Member who has tested positive for Covid-19 must not return to work until deemed fit to do so and upon approval of their medical advisorStaff can follow https://www2.hse.ie/ for regular updates or can contact HSELive for advice **1850 241850** | Requires monitoring  | Board of Management PrincipalStaff Visitors  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Hygiene**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| All staffPupilsVisitors ContractorsPublic  | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | The Board of Management will ensure that:* Appropriate signage in line with public health guidelines will be displayed throughout school facility (buildings and grounds).
* Appropriate social distancing markings are in place
* Necessary PPE is available to staff
* Standard cleaning and maintenance regimes are put in place and detailed records retained
* Toilet facilities are cleaned regularly
* All drinking water facilities will be shut down for students. Staff will continue to use bottled water in the staffroom for making tea/coffee etc.
* Equipment sharing is minimised. Staff are encouraged not to share equipment
* There is regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and that staff are provided with essential cleaning materials to keep their own work areas clean (for example wipes/disinfection products, paper towels and waste bins/bags)
* All school equipment is sanitised – cleaning programmes to be devised to ensure that shared equipment is cleaned and disinfected between use by different people
* Covid compliant work areas to be available where social distancing guidelines can be applied
* There is staggered use of canteen/kitchen or other communal facilities Teachers are encouraged to eat in their classrooms. A maximum of 3 people only in the staffroom at any one time.
* Bins are provided for disposal of waste materials (tissues, paper towels, wipes, etc.) and that adequate waste collection arrangements to be put in place to ensure they do not overflow
* All waste collection points are emptied regularly throughout and at the end of each day.
* Staff use gloves when removing rubbish bags or handling and disposing of any

Rubbish and they wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds afterwards | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalStaffVisitors |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Social Distancing**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| All staffPupils Visitors ContractorsPublic | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | Physical distancing is currently a key control measure in reducing the spread of infection. The Board of Mangement will ensure that:* all persons will adhere to relevant social distancing rules in relation to entering the

school, use of welfare facilities and while working in the school  * physical spacing (2 metres apart currently) for work stations and common spaces, such as entrances/exits, lifts, kithchen areas, canteens, stairs, where congregation or queuing of staff, or students of visitors might occur
* Break times will not be staggered, however the yard will be seperated into 5 distinct areas and class bubbles will be confined to their own area for a week at a time after which the areas will be rotated to allow each class bubble access to all areas and school supervision procedures must be strictly adhered to. Each class bubble will use only their own entry and exit door to/from class and to/from yard.
* Appropriate signage in line with public health guidelines will be displayed throughout the school facility (buildings and grounds)
* Appropriate social distancing arangements will be in place throughout the facility
* Meetings of staff will take place online and by using teleconferencing facilities
* There is currently a strict no handshaking policy in place within the school
* All staff, contractors and visitors should avoid direct physical contact with any other persons as far as possible

 **Where 2 metre distance cannot be maintained staff will wear face masks or visors.**Requirements for personnel working within 2 metres of each other (where activity cannot be suspended):* No worker has symptoms of Covid-19
* The close contact work cannot be avoided
* Installation of physical barriers e.g. clear plastic sneeze guards
* PPE is present in line with the approved risk assessment (full face mask, gloves, etc) and public health advice
* An exclusion zone for <2m work will be set up pre task commencement
* Prior to donning appropriate PPE, staff will wash/sanitise their hands thoroughly
* SNAs carrying out intimate care will at all times wear face masks, gloves and aprons. These will be disposed of appropriately afterwards.
 | Requires monitoring Serious  | Board of Management PrincipalStaff Visitors |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: September 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Cleaning**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff especially cleaning staff | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | All cleaning will be undertaken in line with DES and public health guidance. * Staff are responsible for cleaning personal items that have been brought to work and items handled at work or during breaks. Staff advised to clean personal items that they have bring to work (e.g. mobile phones) and to avoid leaving them down on communal surfaces or they will need to clean the surface after the personal item is removed
* Cleaning staff will be trained in the new cleaning arrangements for the school
* Sufficient cleaning materials and PPE will be available to allow for increased cleaning
* Cleaning staff will be instructed to wear gloves and aprons when cleaning and are aware of the need to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, both before and after wearing gloves
* System in place for the disposable of cleaning cloths and used wipes in a rubbish bag Current HSE guidance recommends waste such as cleaning waste, tissues etc. from a person suspected of having Covid-19 should be double bagged and stored in a secure area for 72 hours before being presented for general waste collection
* System in place to make sure reusable cleaning equipment including mop heads and non-disposable cloths are clean before re-use
* System in place to ensure that equipment such as buckets are emptied and cleaned with a fresh solution of disinfectant before re-use
 | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalStaff  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Office and administration areas** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | * Office capacity to be limited to 4 people at any one time to facilitate the maintenance of physical distancing between designated workstations and staff
* The number of employees permitted to work in an area at any particular time shall be limited as a necessary control measure to protect health and safety.

  | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalAdministration staff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Use of PPE**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | The correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face shields/visors or clear plastic barriers or Perspex screens etc. may be required in some circumstances to address identified risks of spread of the virus. PPE is required to be worn by all staff, they will be notified accordingly and be provided with the necessary PPE and provided with training and information in the proper use, cleaning, storage and disposal of PPE. PPE needs to be consistently and properly worn when required. In addition, it must be regularly inspected, cleaned, maintained and replaced as necessary. PPE will be required to be worn within the school facility according to current occupational and public health guidance especially where a distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained. Current general guidance from the HSE in relation to the wearing of face coverings, masks and gloves is available at the following Link:[**https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html**](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html)Face masks/visors will be provided to all staff and are available for use. Gloves are not required generally within the workplace for infection prevention and control purposes according to current guidance. Due to the risks associated with the usage of gloves, the Board of Management will not be providing gloves to staff for general use. However gloves are required to be worn by all SNAs carrying out intimate care and all cleaning staff while carrying out cleaning duties.\*Face coverings are not recommended to be worn by children under 13 years. However if a parent wishes their child to wear a face covering this request will be facilitated. Also child who are suspected cases of Covid-19 will be required to wear face coverings on route to and from the isolation room. | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalStaff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Handling books and other resources during Covid-19** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff (particularly SNAs, school secretaries and school book rental co-ordinator)  | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | The Board of Management has to prepare for the return of school books (book rental scheme) and other resource materials (including IT equipment) so that these will be available to pupils for the start of the new school year. The following guidelines are recommended for staff when receiving or assisting in compiling resource packs: * Maintain physical distancing (currently 2 meters)
* Observe good hygiene (hand washing and respiratory etiquette, do not touch your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands, etc.) before and after handling books and other materials returned to the school
* Follow the agreed school protocols if you are displaying symptoms of Covid-19
* Any books or other items (resource packs, computers, etc.) being returned to the school should be quarantined for 72 hours. Quarantining means placing these items in sealed boxes that are labelled with the time and date of the start of the 72-hour quarantine period. These boxes should be stored in a separate location away from active work areas within the school
* Following the expiry of the 72-hour quarantine period the items may be unboxed, cleaned and prepared for the next school year
* Hands should be washed in line with relevant guidance
 | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalStaff  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Using hand tools or equipment**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| **All staff** | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | * Staff must wear the appropriate PPE for the nature of the work that they are undertaking
* All tools and equipment must be properly sanitised to prevent cross contamination
* Arrangements should be put in place for one individual to use the same tool, equipment and machinery as far as is reasonably practicable
* Cleaning material will be available so that all tools can be wiped down with disinfectant between each use
* All mobile machinery (including lawnmowers) must be thoroughly cleaned and santisied prior to use
 | Requires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipalStaff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupilsVisitorsContractors | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death |  **The Board of Management will*:**** Appoint an appropriate person for dealing with suspected cases.
* Have a designated isolation area available within the school building. The designated area and the route to the designated area should be easily accessible and as far as is reasonable and practicable, should be accessible by people with disabilities. The possibility of having more than one person displaying signs of Covid-19 needs to be considered so having additional isolation areas available or another contingency plan for dealing with additional cases must be planned. It would be important that the designated area has the ability to isolate the person behind a closed door and away from other workers.

**If a person displays symptoms of Covid-19 the following procedure is to be implemented**:* The person is to be isolated and the Principal will accompany the individual to the designated isolation area via the isolation route, keeping at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic person at all times. The Principal will supervise the person until they are collected.
* Provide a mask for the person presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or on route to the isolation room or while exiting the premises.
* Assess whether the individual who is displaying symptoms can immediately be directed to go home and advise them to call their doctor and continue to self-isolate at home.
* If the person is a child contact parents/guardians immediately and ask them to come and collect their child. If the person is a staff member and they are well enough they can drive home. Otherwise a family member will be called to collect the person. Advise them to call their doctor at home and to self-isolate.
* Facilitate the person presenting with symptoms remaining in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and facilitate them calling their doctor. The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects. Advice should be given to the person presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided.
 | Requires monitoring  | Board of ManagementPrincipalStaff  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 (continued)** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupilsVisitorsCleaners | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | * If the person is well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
* When parents/family member arrive to collect their child/family member they remain outside the school building, until the Principal escorts the child/staff member outside to meet them.
* If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
* Carry out an assessment of the incident which will form part of determining follow-up actions and recovery.
* Arrange for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.
 | Requires monitoring | Board of Management PrincipalStaff  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |
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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Covid-19 cleaning**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupilsVisitors | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | All cleaning will be undertaken in line with DES and public health guidance.  * It is recommended cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after a suspected coronavirus (Covid-19) case. This wil reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
* The area should be kept closed and secure for 72 hours (if possible) for cleaning as the amount of virus living on surfaces will have reduced significantly by 72 hours
* For cleaning purposes, wear a face mask, disposable or washing up gloves. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours and then put with the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished

 should be double-bagged,  * Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as toilets, banisters on stairwells and door handles
* If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (Covid-19) consider using protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and apron
* Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning
* Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned as normal
* All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
 | Serious Requires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipal Cleaning staff  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Cleaning a space with a suspected/confirmed case of Covid-19** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupilsVisitors | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | All cleaning will be undertaken in line with DES and public health guidance.Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, using an approved and recognised detergent and disinfectant in line with the manufacturer’s instructions for dilution, aplication and contact timesDisinfectants used should be  effective against viruses. **Additionally:**Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning. Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered (upholstered furniture of mattresses for example) steam cleaning should be usedAny items that have been heavily contaminated with bodyfluids and that cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of If possible, keep an area closed off and secure for 72 hours. After this time the amount of viruscontamination will have decreased substantially, and cleaning can take place as normal  | Serious Requires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipalCleaning staff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Cleaning a space with a suspected/confirmed case of Covid-19 (continued)** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupilsVisitors | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | **Laundry*** Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Use the warmest

 water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people’s items. Do not shake dirty laundry as this minimises the possibility of dispersing the virus through the air* Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products,

 in line with the cleaning guidance outlined above**Waste Management*** Waste should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full
* The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied
* It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the

 individual’s test results are known* All waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. You should not put

 waste in communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours* If the individual tests negative, the waste can be put in with the normal waste. If the

 individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste | SeriousRequires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipalCleaning staff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Travel to and from work** | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death |  Where a staff member exhibits any signs of Covid-19 or has been exposed to a confirmed case **they should not travel to work.**Wherever possible, staff should travel to work alone using their own means of transport – staff should not share transport to or from work.If availing of public transport, sit down to minimise contact with frequently touched surfaces, handles,roofstraps,isolation bars, etc. Wear a face mask and carry hand santiser (at least 60% alcohol) and use it regularly throughout your journey. | Requires monitoring | All staff |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |
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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Dropping off and picking up of pupils**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| Staff Pupils Parents/guardiansBus and taxi driversWider Community  | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | Arrangements for dropping off and picking up pupils from the school facility will be organised to maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe social distance between drivers/parents/guardians and all school staff. Where pupils travel by public transport the Board of Management will provide a designated drop off/awaiting area (where possible) that supports social distancing measures. Children have always naturally staggered upon arrival to school in the mornings. Children must be dropped off between 9.10am(no earlier) and 9.20am(no later) in the mornings. Children are not permitted to enter the school grounds before 9.10am, this is because all children must be supervised using the sanitizer by their class teachers. Sanitizing gel is a chemical and it is important children don’t rub it into their eyes or ingest it. Class teachers will not be at the sanitizers until 9.10am promptly. Also children will not be covered by school insurance before 9.10am. Two staff members will walk out to the gate at 9.10am promptly and at this point children and parents will know it is safe to enter the school grounds. Once inside the school gates, children will walk on their colour coded lines to their teachers at their own entry and exit door. If any child arrives after 9.20am parents must ring the school so a member of staff can meet the children and supervise them using the sanitizers as all children and teachers will be in their classrooms at this time. Parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds. It is only natural that parents will arrive at the school gates before 9.10am and so parents and their children will be encouraged to remain in their cars until they see the staff members come out to the gate. Any parents parked across the road will escort their children safely across the road to the school gates. Once parents have escorted children safely to the school gates they will be encouraged to leave promptly so as to avoid congestion and contact at the school gates and to leave parking space for parents coming after them. Children will be encouraged to walk and cycle to school but must wait until they see the two staff members before entering the school grounds. Children arriving by bus will be encouraged to remain on the bus until 9.10am until they see the two staff members arrive at the school gate. At collection times parents/guardians will be encouraged to wait in the car outside of the school for older children. For younger children and for parents parked across the road parents/guardians will be encouraged to walk to the school gate adhering to social distancing. All bus children will leave their classrooms at 2.45pm and leave school. 1st & 2nd class children will leave school at 2.50pm, 3rd & 4th class children will leave school at 2.55pm and 5th & 6th class children will leave at 3.00pm. Children will walk on their colour coded lines to the school gate.Where SEN pupils are dropped off and picked up by a private bus/taxi, the accompanying adult should remain in the car/bus with the pupil. A designated staff member will come to the car/bus to receive the pupil and will avoid or limit physical contact with the accompanying adult. Subject to available space there is no strict requirement for taxis/buses to arrive one at a time provided that those accompanying the pupil remain in the taxi/bus and do not interact with those accompanying other pupils. A similar process should be followed for pick up.  | Requires monitoring  | Board of ManagementPrincipalStaff Bus and taxi drivers  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
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| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Visitors to school**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupils Wider Community  | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death |  The Board of Management will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all visitors to the school premises.Visits to the school will be severely restricted and visitors will be asked to:* Make a prior appointment before visiting the school
* Remain at home if they have any Covid-19 symptoms
* Follow the agreed Covid-19 protocols for the school
* Sanitise before entering the premises
* Attendance to be recorded on entry to building
* Wear PPE if instructed
* Adhere to social distancing requirements
* Not to loiter – complete their business and leave premises
* Any visitor who does not have a prior arrangement should not enter the school building. They should contact reception at (059)9722166 . Therese is only in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tuesdays and Fridays please call at 11am or 12.30pm or 3pm.
 | Requires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipal |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shae O’ Regan |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who may be affected?** | **Identified Risks** | **Management of deliveries and supplies to school**  | **Risk Rating with controls** | **Action implementation** |
| **Controls** |
| StaffPupils DriversWider Community | Spread of Covid-19 virusPersons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:• 60 years of age and over• have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer• pregnant womenKnown effects of the coronavirus:• A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)• A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties• Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste•Death | * All drivers to remain in their vehicle and to follow instructions to set down area
* Ensure that all delivery transactions comply with physical distancing requirements
* Agree a delivery protocol with suppliers
* All deliveries to be planned with allocated times for collections and deliveries
* Arrangements to be made for paperless deliveries
* System to be agreed with suppliers to ensure reconciliations are accurate
* Appropriate sanitising arrangements at set down areas (for materials and stock) and at access and egress points.
* Any visitor who does not have a prior arrangement should not enter the school building. They should contact reception at (059)9722166 or Therese on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.at the same number. Tuesdays and Fridays please call 059-9722166 at 11am , 12.30pm or 3pm.

 . | Requires monitoring | Board of ManagementPrincipalStaffDelivery personnel  |
| Risk Level Calculation(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b) | Risk Level Action1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately |
| Assessment Date: August/September, 2020 | Assessor’s Name: Mandy Ryan/ Alison Murphy/ Shane O’ Regan  |

**Appendix 5 Contact Tracing Log**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of School** |  | **School Contact Person**  |  |
| **Address of School** |  | **For Queries only:****Phone No** |  |
| **Email**  |  |
| **Name of Visitor**  |  | Was the visit pre-arranged with the Principal? Yes No  |
| **Date of Visit** | \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Time** | **Entry to school** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ am pm  | **Exit from School** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ am pm  |
| **Visitor Status** | Contractor  | Parent/Guardian  | Other Please complete: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Contact details of visitor** | Company Name (if applicable)  |  |
| Address  |  |
| Contact No.  |  | Email Address |  |
| Reason for Visit |  |
| **Who the visitor met (separate line required for each person the visitor met)** |
| **Name of Person visited**  | **Length of time spent with each person in the school** |