



Back to School Plan What Parents Need to Know

Our main aim is to prevent the risk of infection coming in to school and we cannot do this without your help!

YOU SHOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE, A COUGH OF ANY KIND, LOSS OF SMELL/TASTE OR HAVE ANY KIND OF SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

If you are in any doubt whether you should send your child to school or not, please err on the side of caution.

Measures to keep your child safe:

- 27th August Arrival to school:
 - Senior Infants 9:00am via Front Door
 - 1st & 2nd Classes 9:00am in school playground
 - 3rd & 4th Classes 9:15am in school playground
 - 5th & 6th Classes 9:30am in school playground
 - Junior Infants 9:30am to school hall
- Arrival to school from 28th August onwards:
 - A staggered arrival time will take place between 8:45am and 9:15am.
 - Pupils with surnames beginning with letters A-N should arrive between 8:45am and 9:00am.
 - Pupils with surnames beginning M – Z should arrive between 9:00am and 9:15am.
 - Children will independently enter and exit the school via a designated door and must use this door at all times.
- Dismissal from school:
 - School will finish at 1:40 (infants) and a staggered dismissal time will take place for classes from First Class to Sixth Class from the school playground.
 - 1st & 2nd Class 2:20pm
 - 3rd & 4th Class 2:30pm
 - 5th & 6th Class 2:40pm
- Throughout the school there will be hand sanitiser provided which children will be required to use and will be asked to regularly wash their hands while in school.
- Classes will be confined to mixing with only their own class group indoors and no whole school activities, such as assemblies, will take place.
- When playing outdoors, two class groups will play in one large space (for example, First Class 1 with First Class 2). These groupings will not change and children will be

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asked to maintain a one-metre distance as much as possible from each other while on the playground.

- Within each class, the children will be grouped into pods which will be distanced from each other as much as classroom space allows. Children from 3rd-6th will be required to stay in their pods and keep socially distance from other pods.
- Children will be required to use their own resources where possible i.e. pencils, scissors etc and sharing of resources, particularly from 3rd-6th will not be allowed. Pupils in 3rd – 6th Classes will require a basket for their books to be stored on their desks. The basket should be durable to last the full year and large enough to hold all of the pupil's books in a landscape or portrait position.
- Staff will maintain a regular cleaning routine of all resources and materials that will be used by different pods or classes. Where necessary items of school equipment will be isolated for 72 hours prior to being used by a different pod/class.
- No after school clubs, with the exception of Sacramental Preparation, will be facilitated in Term 1. This will be reviewed in Term 2.
- The school will be cleaned by contract cleaners, following all government guidelines, advice and checklists, every day. The level of cleaning has been significantly increased.
- If your child becomes ill in school with any of the symptoms of covid-19, they will be immediately cared for in an isolation room where they will remain until they are collected. They must be collected as soon as possible. If your child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspected case. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and provide an emergency contact and contact details for your child's GP also. If your child is sent home with symptoms of Covid-19, before returning to school, you must provide a written declaration that your child is well enough to return to school. This should be supplied to the office or to the following email:
scuilchormaicns@ddletb.ie
- Work areas and the isolation areas will be fully cleaned.

PPE

- PPE is available to the staff in our school and it may be worn in some instances where 2m social distance cannot be maintained or where staff are administering first aid or engaged in intimate care needs, however it is not envisaged that staff will wear PPE in general.

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How can you help?

- Take your child's temperature before coming to school and ensure their hands are clean
- Use of the Campus:
 - Driving to school: If using the drop and go system, parents/guardians should remain in their car
 - Walking to school: If your child is able to do so, they should walk onto the campus via the pedestrian gate unaccompanied and follow the path to their designated entry point
 - When approaching and while on the campus, please maintain social distancing at all times
 - Do not loiter around the school at drop off and collection time. It is strictly set down and go at all times.
 - No adult should enter the building unless invited to do so.
 - If you use the school bus, please communicate directly with the bus company on arrangements.
- Communicate with your child's teacher via Class Dojo
- Do not allow your child to bring any personal items, which are not necessary for school, in to school i.e. toys, teddies etc
- Please ensure your child has all the required items with them when they come to school each day, including lunch, as forgotten items cannot be dropped to the school later
- Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate parent volunteers in the school at this time
- Visitors to the school are strictly by appointment only. Visitors to the school will be asked for contact tracing information
- Label all of your child's clothes and belongings.

Homework:

- Your child's homework books will be kept at home this year. Your child's class teacher will use Seesaw to correct and administer some homework.
- Any work completed in homework books should be photographed and uploaded to Seesaw at the end of the week.
- Your child's class teacher will upload the answers to your child's homework and parents/guardians are asked to correct the homework with their child.
- More detailed instructions regarding English and Irish homework will come from your child's class teacher.

Schoolbooks:

- Your child's books from last year will be sent home in the first week of school. Parents who wish to complete these books with their children may do so. Please

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note that teachers will not correct any work completed in these books and under no circumstances should these books be brought back into school.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell
- Children who have travelled to another non green list country must have completed two weeks' quarantine before returning to school

Parents, the school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – pupil, parents and staff. A robust school plan has been put in place to achieve this, but it cannot work without the co-operation and endeavours of the whole school community. We need your help to follow our new school rules as laid out above and to follow the HSE health guidelines to ensure our school opens, remains open and remains Covid-free.

It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to the school and the consequent risk of its spread. As well as your co-operation, which is essential, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.