

Summary of additions to Balla NS Covid 19 Response Plan Required by “Work Safely Protocol”

1. Return to work protocol.

Staff will complete the updated RTW form. (verbally or in writing) to confirm that the details in the pre-return to work form remain unchanged following subsequent periods of closure such as holidays.

Pregnant staff and staff who are deemed very high risk are directed by the Department of Education and Skills to work remotely during the interim phase of reopening. (See Circular 0005/2021).

Return to school form: Parents will complete a Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form. Parents to inform teacher/office re absences.

2. Arrival and Dispersal times for pupils:

No child should be on the school yard before 8.55 a.m. or after 2.35 p.m.
Parents are asked to be on-time/prompt at drop-off and collection times.

3. Use of PPE in Schools

Medical/Surgical Grade Masks: All school staff will be provided with masks. Children do not have to wear masks but may do so if they wish. INTO are lobbying for senior pupils to wear masks. If a child presents with Covid -19 symptoms at school they will be asked to wear a Mask.

4. Access to the school building /contact log

Parents are respectfully asked not to linger/congregate at or near the school. Communication with the school must be by phone or email.
Only people deemed by the Board of Management as essential workers are allowed to enter the school grounds.

5. Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools

1981 Infectious Diseases legislation

(<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1981/si/390/made/en/print>) quoted below some of the relevant points.

Section 11

“11. On becoming aware, whether from a notification or intimation under these Regulations or otherwise, of a case or a suspected case of an infectious disease or of a probable source of infection with such disease, a medical officer of health, or a health officer on the advice of a medical officer of health, shall make such enquiries and take such steps as are necessary or desirable for investigating the nature and source of such infection, for preventing the spread of such infection and for removing conditions favourable to such infection”.

Section 19

“19. A person who refuses to comply with a requirement or direction given or a request for information made in pursuance of any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of a contravention of

these Regulations.”

Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools

As a precautionary measure if anyone gets sick at school , they will be treated as if they are a “suspected case of Covid 19” and our “Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19” procedure will be followed. (point12)

Staff and pupils are advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements

- ie. stay at home,
- do not go to work or school if they or any family members display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- contact their family doctor to seek advice and they should follow the medical advice.

In the event of a person choosing not to seek medical advice, the school must treat them as a positive case and will require the person with symptoms to absent themselves from school for 10 days. Close contacts of such a case are required to restrict their movements for 14 days from the last date of contact with the case. When children are involved, it is often not feasible to isolate a child away from the household. In this case, where a child cannot self-isolate, the household must restrict their movements for 17 days from the first day of symptoms of the case.

See <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/managing-coronavirus-at-home/if-you-live-with-someone-who-has-coronavirus.html>

Staff and pupils are advised not to return to work or attend school in the event of the following:

- identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- In all of the cases mentioned above, staff and parents of pupils are advised to seek medical advice and to follow that medical advice.
 - If staff or pupils have travelled outside of Ireland; staff and pupils are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- Staff and pupils are asked to cooperate with any public health advice and engage with public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school;
- School staff is encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contract tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

6. In-class activities

Team-teaching, Aistear, & Literacy Lift-Off will not take place during the phased period of re-opening.

7. There will be no **homework** given to Infants, 1st and 2nd classes in the re-opening phase.

8. Hygiene

Children will be required to wash and sanitise their hands at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Respiratory etiquette

Staff and pupils will be required to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering mouth and nose with a tissue or with bent elbow when there is a need to cough or sneeze. Used tissue must be disposed of immediately. Hands are to be washed, dried and sanitised following a coughing/sneezing episode.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Do Not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Do not share objects that touch your mouth – for example, bottles, cups, cutlery, etc.

9. Physical Distancing:

Parents are respectfully requested to drop/collect children promptly .

If Parents have to leave their cars they must wear face masks at arrival and collection times. Walking/cycling to school is encouraged as much as possible.

Staff

A distance of 2m is 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 distance as is possible is required. Wearing medical grade face masks should be observed.

Staggered breaks will continue.

Staff meetings will be held remotely.

10. Yard/Supervision

Morning supervision- SNAs/Member of staff to be present on the yard.

Classes will be dispersed pod by pod when leaving the classroom. The school will minimise equipment sharing and clean shared equipment between uses by different people.

11. Ventilation

In accordance with public health advice 'Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools', Classroom doors, where/when practical will be left open to minimise touching of common areas and to enhance good ventilation. Classroom windows and doors will be open as often as possible to increase air flow.

As windows/doors will be open throughout the day, children are advised to wear layers of clothing under the school tracksuit.

12. Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

School staff are encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contact tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

Isolation room.

Isolation for people who develop symptoms or signs in the educational setting

1. If pupils develop symptoms or signs that cause concern about COVID-19 during the day the pupil will be moved as quickly as possible to a Separate area (yard) /isolation room 2m away from other people other than the person(s) needed to provide support until they can leave.
2. The parents/guardian shall be telephoned to come and take the pupil home as soon as is reasonably practical. This needs to be done promptly.
3. Parents/guardian should take medical advice regarding the requirement for testing and the duration of exclusion from education.
4. Pupils and/or school staff may leave the room to aerate it if someone has displayed Covid 19 symptoms.
5. Contact surfaces in the immediate vicinity of the person with symptoms shall be cleaned/ wiped down.
6. The person accompanying a pupil waiting to be collected shall limit physical contact as much as is practical consistent with the pupil's needs and should use a surgical/medical mask, visor, gown and gloves. Hand hygiene must be performed after removal of PPE gear and double bag, and place in wheelie bin.
7. When the pupil is collected, the accompanying person can resume work with other pupils after removing used PPE and performing hand hygiene.

13. Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19

Mrs Sinnott, as LWR, a member of the school management team responsible that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.

14. Checklist for cleaning

There is a written cleaning schedule available to cleaning staff and cleaner will wear PPE whilst performing duties.