Kiltale NS

Kiltale,
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C15 XF86.

Roll No: 17742P

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Response Plan for Re-opening Kiltale NS

Introductory Statement

The Board of Management aims to facilitate the resumption of school based teaching and learning in Kiltale National School and the return to the workplace of staff. All staff will complete the required training in accordance with Government and Public Health guidelines. The return to work must be done safely and in strict adherence to the advice and instructions of public health authorities and the Government.

Details for the reopening of the school facility and the applicable controls are outlined in this document and are in accordance with the most recent public health advice from Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and the Department of Education (DoE).

Underlying Principles

- The school has a duty of care to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated to ensure that the school exercises that duty of care in the current crisis.

- Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full school day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.

- 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 school and the consequent risk of its spread. This will be based on prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in our school, predicated on three general recommendations:

    - Minimising the risk of introduction of Covid-19 into the school community through:
        - Any pupil who is unwell, or has a household member unwell, should stay at home
        - Control of access to the school by parents or others
        - Monitoring of staff health

    - Managing the risk of spread if introduced through:
        - Regular hand hygiene;
        - Maintaining physical distancing;

- Wearing of masks by all adults and children (where applicable)
- Proper ventilation in each room around the school e.g., classroom, staffroom, etc.
- Application of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; and
- Environmental hygiene, including cleaning

- Managing the risk of the possibility of the spread of COVID-19 from the school to home through:
  - Implementation of good hygiene in school
  - Monitoring and changing practices and protocols in school where necessary.
  - Minimising social contacts to the 'pods' and 'bubbles'.

- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.
- Balanced approach
  - Keep a sense of perspective: avoid undue fear
  - Create awareness on protection and symptoms
  - Stay at home if unwell

Enhanced Cleaning Regimes in our School

In line with the public health advice, we have a new Environmental Hygiene Plan which will involve more regular and enhanced cleaning regimes which will be implemented in Kiltale NS to manage the risk of introduction and spread of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 response plan for primary and special schools (August 2021) from the DoE, Appendix 9, COVID-19 response plan for the safe and sustainable operation of primary and special schools provides relevant guidance to schools on effective school cleaning including:

- steps to be taken before reopening the school;
- how to clean;
- the options for both routine and post COVID-19 case cleaning for surfaces, toilets and equipment;
- guidance on cleaning of shared equipment in schools such as musical instruments, art materials, electronic and sports equipment.
- guidance on how to manage cleaning of toys for young children and for the care of equipment and aids for pupils with special educational needs;
- the PPE to be used for cleaning in schools as well as the waste management treatment of materials resulting from routine cleaning and post COVID-19 cases.
- that each setting in school should be cleaned at least once per day and frequently touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned several time during the day; and
- the cleaning steps that should take place in a school room where an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 was present as well as the arrangements needed for communal areas the person may have visited/used.

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Protocols to be Implemented

- All protocols and routines will be taught, practised and implemented throughout the school year 2021-22.
- Children do not need to wear face coverings as stated by HSE guidelines *"Face coverings are not recommended for children under the age of 13"*. The option will remain for pupils who wish to wear face coverings with parental permission.
- Staff will use visors and/or face coverings as deemed necessary within the school day and in accordance with public health advice.
- All children returning to school will operate within a bubble system.
- The school will be split into 4 bubbles – A, B, C & D:-
    - Bubble A – Junior & Senior Infants,
    - Bubble B – 1st & 2nd Class,
    - Bubble C – 3rd & part of 4th Class,
    - Bubble D – part of 4th Class, 5th & 6th Class.
- Each bubble will be broken into separate pods. Each pod will have between 4 and 9 children, depending on the size of the bubble. There will be physical distancing between pods and within Bubble C and Bubble D, that distance will be at least 1 metre where possible.
- At break time and lunch time class bubbles will be physically distanced into marked play areas.
- Break time, lunch time and finishing times will be as follows:-

Timetable

Bubble A	Bubble B	Bubble C	Bubble D
Junior & Senior Infants	**1st & 2nd Class**	**3rd & part of 4th Class**	**Part of 4th Class, 5th & 6th Class**
9.00 – School start **10.45 – Break time** **11.00 - Class resumes** **12.35 – Lunch time** **13.00 - Class resumes**			
Via Exit 1 **1.40 – Junior & Senior Infants finish**	**Via Exit 1** **2.30 - Children travelling by bus** **2.35 – Bubble leaves**	**Via Exit 2** **2.30 - Children travelling by bus – Via exit 1** **2.38 – Bubble leaves**	**Via Exit 3** **2.30 - Children travelling by bus– Via exit 1** **2.40 – Bubble leaves**

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Key to Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Front left side of school (Existing Staff Entrance)	1
Back of school (Yard Door)	2
Front Door	3

Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance Point	Exit Point
Ms. Donnelly	Jun Inf	1	1
Ms. Donnelly	Sen Inf	1	1
Ms. Connolly	1st Class	1	1
Ms. Connolly	2nd Class	1	1
Ms. Brown	3rd Class	2	2
Ms. Brown	4th Class C	2	2
Mr. McElroy	4th Class D	2	3
Mr. McElroy	5th Class	2	3
Mr. McElroy	6th Class	2	3

Arrival at school

- All children will start at the same time and should not arrive at the school any earlier than 8.50am. **Please wait in your car** until the gate is open.
- It is important that children and parents from all classrooms **do not congregate in groups** before and after school.
- When the gate is open, children will walk in slowly and take up their position standing in their line. To avoid children from different bubbles mixing, there will be no playing in the yard before school.
- We ask for your co-operation at this time as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.

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- Each class should line up at their designated point with physical distancing observed.
- The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school grounds.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, Aladdin Connect or by phoning the school office.

School Day

- Ventilation - doors open all day.
- The wearing of masks by adults and children (where applicable) in line with current public health advice.
- All visitors to the school, with an appointment, should come to the school front door and press the buzzer.
- When at school children will be asked to continue to:-
    - Sanitise and wash – your hands often,
        - On arrival at school,
        - Before eating or drinking
        - After using the toilet,
        - After playing outdoors
    - Cover – your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely in the pedal bins provided
    - Distance – yourself away from other bubbles and pods and maximise physical distance and minimise social contact.
- Children will be taught to hand sanitise and wash their hands frequently, liquid soap and warm water will be provided.
- Hand sanitisers are available at each entry point and each classroom.
- Hand washing is available in class and in the bathrooms with hot water, soap and tissues for hand drying. Children are invited to bring their own small personal hand towel (the size of a face cloth) to be used in school. This should be kept in a plastic, Ziploc bag in the child's schoolbag and laundered daily at 60°C at home.
- Parents collecting a child for an appointment or leaving early, etc., will have to notify the school in advance and then ring the office to advise they are at the front gate. The child will then be sent out to the parent/car from the front door of the school.
- Adults, who are dropping off or collecting their children from school, should wait in their car in the morning and in the evening, except in the case of Juniors to 2nd class who should be walked from their car to and from the entrance gate. (Junior Infants should be brought to the end door, (teachers entrance) for the first 3 days in the morning)

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- **At 1.40pm all Infants** -- will be asked to wait on the footpath, outside the gate with a staff member for their parents to collect them and walk them to their car.
- **At 2.35pm Bubble B** -- will be asked to wait on the footpath, outside the gate with a staff member for their parents to collect them and walk them to their car.
- **At 2.38pm Bubble C** -- their teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact and go directly to their car via exit 2.
- **At 2.40pm Bubble D** -- their teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact and go directly to their car via exit 3.

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day due to the child becoming ill the following arrangements will apply

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- The secretary will sign out for the adult collecting the child
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the parents will be contacted immediately and advised accordingly.
Due to the evolving nature in dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19, staff will respond in accordance under the direction/guidance from the Department of Education and public health authorities.
The school will be guided as required by the current advice and guidelines issued by the DoE and HSE.

Children who should not attend school

Children should not attend school if they are instructed by the HSE and or a medical professional. Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the parents will be contacted immediately and advised accordingly.
Due to the evolving nature in dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19, staff will respond in accordance under the direction/guidance from the Department of Education and public health authorities.

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The school will be guided as required by the current advice and guidance issued by the DoE and HSE.
In general the following principles will apply (this list is not exhaustive):-

- **Children who are generally unwell**
- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been instructed by the HSE and or directed by a medical professional.
- Children who have 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

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, activities to support the child's learning at home will be shared with parents by the class teacher (and/or the support teacher, where relevant) through a blended approach using class textbooks and an agreed digital learning platform eg., SeeSaw.

Personal Equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior & Senior Infants the school will provide a container which will hold each pods pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name pods colour.
- Children are invited to bring their own small personal hand towel (the size of a face cloth) to be used in school. This should be kept in a plastic, Ziploc bag in the child's schoolbag and laundered daily at 60°C at home.
- Children from 1st to 6th class will bring a change of shoes and pull ups (in a plastic bag) for playtime. They will keep this in their own box under their table.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

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Yard

Each bubble will have access to the school playground during their allotted break times. The yard will be supervised by the teacher and SNA. All children will be playing outside, whenever possible, including rainy days, therefore raincoats and shoes should be waterproof.

Support Teaching

In keeping with our Special Education Policy, support teaching will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teacher will work within the confines of a bubble.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining physical distance from one another.
- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group where possible and space permits.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be sanitised in between different groups attending.

PPE

While it is not envisaged that PPE will be worn by staff in general, staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face coverings. When staff can't keep 2 metres distance from other staff members or pupils, visors/ masks should be worn. Staff waiting with children at home time and travelling between bubbles will also wear PPE.

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

PE

PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment will be confined to each bubble.

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Uniform

We have reviewed the need to launder uniforms daily and this is no longer recommended.
Therefore children should wear the school uniform every day except on days when PE is scheduled for their class or we have a non-uniform day.

Staff Breaks

Breaks will take place in the PE hall sitting one metre apart. Two people are allowed in the staffroom at any given time to facilitate social distancing.

Summary

This plan will be monitored, reviewed and implemented accordingly during the year under the direction of the DoE and in line with current public health advice and guidelines.
The aim is to open the school and to keep it open. Please let us work together for the sake of our community by:-

- Following the Government guidelines in order to keep the community free of the virus
- Teach your child the importance of social distance, sneezing and coughing etiquette and hand washing
- Follow the plans laid out above to ensure the safety of all the children and the staff.

Colin McEvoy — 13/10/21
Siobhán Mayes — 13/10/21