

Amendments to St. Peter's N.S. Covid 19 response plan which should be read in conjunction with our original Covid 19 response plan

1. Return to work protocol. Staff will complete the updated RTW form. 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. (attached)

Absence by a staff member/pupil is a private matter between staff/pupil and school management.

2. Arrival and Dispersal times for pupils: Three staggered arrival and pick up times.

No child should be on the school yard before 9.10 a.m. or after 2.50 p.m.

Parents are asked to be on-time/prompt at dropping off and collection times

| Pupils whose surnames begin with | Bus Children + families whose surnames begin with <u>A</u> up to and including <u>Dunne</u> | Families whose surnames begin with <u>Durkan</u> up to and including <u>McDonnell</u> | Families whose surnames begin with <u>Mc F</u> up to and including <u>W</u> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Arrival Time | 9.10 a.m. | 9.20 a.m. | 9.30 a.m. |
| Collection Time for Junior and Senior Infants | 1.30 p.m. | 1.40 p.m. | 1.50 p.m. |
| Collection Time for 1st to 6th class | 2.30 p.m. | 2.40 m. | 2.50 p.m. |

3. Use of PPE in Schools

- **Medical Grade Masks:** All school staff will be provided with medical grade masks in the EN16483 category.
- Children do not have to wear masks but may do so if they wish. 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 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.

- 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 member display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. They must 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:
 - ☒ if they are **identified by the HSE as a close contact** of a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - ☒ if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus

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 contact tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

6. Early Intervention Programmes

Aistear will not take place in March

Literacy Lift Off will not take place in March

7. There will be no homework given to Infants, 1st and 2nd class in the interim phase of reopening.

Key Messages/Reminders:

Hand Hygiene

☒ Children will be required to wash their hands on arrival at school, before and after each break, after using the toilet, before going home from school and children will 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.

Good hygiene practices and washing hands properly and regularly can help stop the spread of the virus. All staff and pupils will adopt the following practices as strictly as possible:

Do

- Wash your hands properly and often
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze
- Put used tissues into a bin and wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Do Not

- Touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Share objects that touch your mouth – for example, bottles, cups, cutlery, etc.

Physical Distancing:

Physical Distancing outside of the classroom and within the school

School drop off/collection

- **Parents are respectfully requested to drop and go/collect and go** once their children have safely entered/exited the school grounds at arrival/dispersal time and **parents are asked to be there promptly at collection time.** This will minimise large groups congregating at the school, ease parking congestion whilst also ensuring pupils will be safely dropped off and collected.
- Parents are respectfully requested **not to socialise or congregate at school gates at arrival and collection times.**(Please stay in your car)
- **If Parents have to leave their cars they must wear face masks at arrival and collection times.**

Pupils should not be dropped off outside the school gates by parents before 9.10am. No pupils on school grounds before 9.10a.m.

- Families just make one drop off – pupils proceed directly to their respective classroom from 9.10am, 9.20 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. onwards.

Children are not allowed to play outside before school begins nor after school ends. They are to go immediately to their classrooms/cars.

At dropping off and /or collecting times, we encourage physical distancing of 2m at all times where possible. Parents are asked to be at the school at their designated pick-up time. (Children should not have to wait on the yard at home time as there is an increased risk of classes mixing.)

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.

Physical distancing will be improved among staff members within the staff room through the use of staggered breaks.

Staff meetings will be held remotely.

A no hand shaking policy is implemented.

Staff may have to rotate between areas/classes but this shall be minimized where possible.

Yard/Supervision

Breaks, play time/outdoor activities are staggered to ensure that classes/bubbles do not mix and each class/bubble plays in their designated zones

During the day to minimise crowding at the entrance and exits classes will be dispersed pod by pod and will be dispersed according to surname at home time.

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

The school will minimise equipment sharing and clean shared equipment between uses by different people.

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.

Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

School staff is 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(s)/area(s): 1. kitchenette, 2. Polytunnel, 3.shelters, etc.

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/isolation room or if that is not possible to a separate area more than 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 mask, visor, gown and gloves. Hand hygiene must be performed after removal of PPE gear.

7. When the pupil is collected, the accompanying person can resume work with other pupils after removing used PPE and performing hand hygiene.

8. Parents are required to provide an up to date "Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form" in respect of their child after any/all school absence.

Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19

Mrs Anne Cooney, as LWR, a member of the school management team will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.

Checklist for cleaning

There is a written cleaning schedule available to cleaning staff and cleaning staff will wear medical grade masks, aprons and gloves whilst performing their cleaning duties.