**Covid-19 Response Plan - Scoil Eoin Baiste – March 2022**

**Underlying Principles for the safe operation of Scoil Eoin Baiste:**

* The school has a responsibility to make effort 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 better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
* 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 into the school and the consequent risk of its spread.
* Control measures are continuously reviewed and updated as per public health and Department of Education advice.

**Procedures for Start/End of the School Day:**

* Parents are asked to “***Drop and Go***”, no parking will be available in the school carpark.
* Pupils/Parents/Guardians are asked not to arrive before school start time.
* Entrance gates are marked as follows,

**Gate A – Gate at the infant classrooms**

**Gate B – Middle gate**

**Gate C – Gate at the school office**

**Junior & Senior Infants: 9.10am to 1.50pm**

**1st to 6th class: 9.10am to 2.50pm**

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| **Class** | **Gate** |
| Junior Infants  | A |
| Senior Infants A | B |
| Senior Infants B | A |
| 1st class | A |
| 2nd class | B |
| 3rd class | C |
| 4th class | C |
| 5th class | B |
| 6th class | C |

* All class teachers meet their class at their allocated gate in the morning and at the end of the day, teachers walk their class to their gate.

**Classrooms, Teaching & Learning:**

* Schoolbags are kept in school, lunch boxes and homework/reading folders can be brought to and from school each day.
* Homework is assigned using a blended approach via Seesaw and the use of homework copies/sheets.

**PPE, Cleaning & Ventilation:**

* The Board of Management are responsible for the health and safety of all in our school. The wearing of face coverings has proven successful in curbing the spread of Covid-19. As we are still working with a majority of unvaccinated pupils, the Board considers it good practice to continue mask wearing presently.
* Parents/Guardians/Visitors to our school are asked to continue wearing a mask to ensure safety for all.
* Windows are to be open as fully as possible.
* Classroom doors remain open.
* Toys, resources, PE equipment, etc. are all cleaned daily/weekly/after use with antibacterial cleaner.

**Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school:**

* Homework activities will be available on Seesaw.

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

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.

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

Ensuring the following,

* Staff and pupils that have symptoms do not attend school and follow most recent HSE guidance on self-isolation.
* Advise staff and pupils that develop symptoms at school to bring this to the attention of the Covid Team promptly.

**Know the Symptoms of COVID-19 In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19**

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

* Fever (high temperature – 38 degrees Celsius or higher) – including having chills.
* Dry cough
* Fatigue
* Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
* Nasal congestion (runny or blocked nose)
* Conjunctivitis (also known as red eyes)
* Sore throat
* Headache
* Muscle or joint pain (aches and pains)
* Different types of skin rash
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhoea
* Chills or dizziness

**Respiratory & Hand Hygiene**:

* Good respiratory hygiene must be adhered to and teachers continue to explicitly teach good respiratory hygiene.
* All bathrooms have soap, warm water and hand dryers for hand washing throughout the day. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school.
* Teachers continue to explicitly teach good hand hygiene.

**Visitors/Contact Log:**

* Arrangements for visitors will be by prior appointment unless in an emergency situation.
* Visitors enter school grounds via Gate C and reports to the office.
* All visitors sign in at the office and provide contact details.
* Visitor is met by relevant staff member.
* Visitors are asked to sanitise their hands and encouraged to wear a face covering while on school grounds.
* Room/Area used is cleaned.

**Any queries or suggestions on our Covid Response Plan can be forwarded to the office email, scoileoinbaiste@gmail.com**