**Covid-19 Response Plan - Scoil Eoin Baiste – November 2021**

**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.
* As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be effectively implemented.
* Management and the LWR will keep up to date with Department updates, public health advice, etc. All relevant updates and correspondence will be shared with staff and parents/guardians via email/text/website.
* Control measures are continuously reviewed and updated as per public health and Department of Education advice.
* All staff have a duty under legislation to be familiar with the control measures in place and abide by them. The plan was devised collectively with staff, the Covid team and Board of Management. We have a shared responsibility to ensure it is implemented fully.
* The Department of Education has emphasised the importance of rigorous adherence to the control measures put in place.

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

* It will not be possible for parents/guardians to come onto the school grounds before/after school. Parents are asked to “***Drop and Go***”, no parking will be available in the school carpark. Absolutely **no congregating** at the gates.
* Older pupils from 2nd to 6th class are asked to come to school unaccompanied where possible, to avoid large crowds gathering at the gate.
* Pupils/Parents/Guardians are asked not to arrive before school start time and to adhere to social distancing guidelines outside the gate.
* 2m distance markers have been displayed at the front of the school on the pathways to guide pupils and parents/guardians.
* Entrance gates are marked as follows,

**Gate A – gate at the infant classroom**

**Gate B – Middle gate**

**Gate C – gate closest to the school office**

* Gates are used as follows,

**Gate A – Junior Infants, Senior Infants B, 1st class, 5th class**

**Gate B – Senior Infants A, 2nd class**

**Gate C – 3rd class, 4th class, 6th class**

**Start Times:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Time** | **Gate** |
| Junior Infants  | 9.30am | A |
| Senior Infants A | 9.20am | B |
| Senior Infants B | 9.20am | A |
| 1st class | 9.10am | A |
| 2nd class | 9.10am | B |
| 3rd class | 9.20am | C |
| 4th class | 9.10am | C |
| 5th class | 9.20am | A |
| 6th class | 9.30am | C |

* All class teachers meet their class in the carpark at their allocated gate and walk them to their classroom.

**Procedures for End of the Day:**

* Class teachers walk their class to their assigned gate.

**Finish Times:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Time** | **Gate** |
| Junior Infants | 2pm | A |
| Senior Infants A | 1.50pm | B |
| Senior Infants B | 1.50pm | A |
| 1st class | 2.40pm | A |
| 2nd class | 2.40pm | B |
| 3rd class | 2.40pm | C |
| 4th class | 2.50pm | C |
| 5th class | 2.50pm | A |
| 6th class | 3pm | C |

**Staggered Break times:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Class**  |
| **10.50am – 11.00am**  | Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st, 2nd class |
| **11.10am - 11.20am** | 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th class |
| **12.20pm – 12.50pm** | Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st, 2nd class |
| **1pm – 1.30pm** | 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th class |

* Each class bubble has a marked area in the yard.

**Classrooms:**

* Classes and their teacher to operate as bubbles and classes are further divided into Pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods, where possible.
* 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.
* At the end of each day, each pupil (1st-6th) is responsible for wiping down their desk and chair.
* Pupils must use their own copies, pens, and pencils, etc. No sharing is permitted.
* Velcro runners/shoes are essential for those who cannot tie laces.
* **Book Rental Scheme** in operation: All pupils are provided with their own books, no sharing is necessary.
* Based on guidelines and HSE advice, it was agreed that **2m physical distancing must be maintained while on the school premises**.

**SEN Teaching:**

* Learning support will be provided by withdrawal until further notice.
* Children will receive support in a setting that ensures physical distancing.
* Perspex screens should be used.

**Ventilation:**

* Windows are to be open as fully as possible all day.
* Classroom doors should remain open all day.

**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.

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

It is important to know and recognise the symptoms.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

* [fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/fever-adults/) - including having chills
* dry cough
* fatigue (tiredness)

Less common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

* [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/lost-or-changed-sense-of-smell/)
* 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 Hygiene**

* Good respiratory hygiene must be adhered to. This can be ensured by doing the following,
1. Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.
2. Dispose of used tissues immediately and safely into a bin.
3. Avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth as much as possible.

**Hand Hygiene:**

* On entering and leaving their classroom, pupils must sanitise their hands. Hand sanitiser pumps are installed in all classrooms.
* All bathrooms have soap, warm water and hand dryers for hand washing throughout the day.
* Hand hygiene posters are displayed throughout the school.

**Frequency of Hand Hygiene**:

Pupils and staff should perform hand hygiene,

* before and after eating and preparing food.
* after coughing or sneezing.
* after using the toilet.
* where hands are dirty.
* before and after wearing gloves.
* before and after being on public transport.
* before leaving home.
* when arriving/leaving the school /other sites.
* when entering and exiting vehicles.
* after touching potentially contaminated surfaces.
* if in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.

**Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a class:**

* If the school is notified that a person in your child’s class has a suspected or a confirmed case of Covid-19,
1. The parents of all children in the class will be notified
2. Public health advice will be sought and followed.

**Dealing with a suspected 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 following are the procedures that will be implemented,

1. Class teacher provides a mask for the pupil. If a child is being sent to the isolation room for illness of any kind, a mask is worn.
2. The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation room.
3. A parent/guardian is contacted to collect the child.
4. Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area.
5. Pupils must be 48 hours symptom free before returning to school, if in doubt, seek advice from your GP.

**Children who should not attend school:**

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school, this advice is for babies and children up to the end of secondary school, usually the age of 18.

If your child is **not fully vaccinated** against COVID-19, keep them at home if they:

* [have symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/symptoms-child/)
* [are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/child-is-a-close-contact-school/)

If your child **is fully vaccinated** against COVID-19, keep them at home if they:

* [have symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/symptoms-child/)

**Visitors/Contact Log:**

* Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal.
* All contact with parents will be made via phone or email where possible. If a face to face meeting is absolutely necessary, it will take place outdoors where feasible.
* A contact tracing log of those entering the school facilities is maintained by the office.
* Face masks are to be worn while on school grounds.