



Plan for Re-opening of Scoil Naomh Treasa (August '21)

New updates to the plan are highlighted

Underlying Principles

- 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.
- 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.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Hand Hygiene

Hand sanitiser will be available at the following locations:

- all classrooms
- outside pupil toilets
- outside on yard
- outside and inside main entrance door
- staffroom

Hands will be sanitised often:

- After coughing or sneezing
- Before and after eating food
- When arriving and leaving the school
- Before and after toilet use
- Before and after using protective gloves

Entrance & Exit Points for staff and pupils

- All staff will enter the school using main front door.
- 3rd - 6th Class pupils will enter/leave the school building using double doors outside Ms. Mann's classroom.
- Junior Infants – 2nd Class pupils will enter/leave the school building using double doors outside Ms. Dunne's classroom.

Arrival at school

- Normal opening hours (9.00 a.m.) will continue to apply.

- Supervision of pupils will begin in classrooms at 8.50 a.m. The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- Temperature testing of pupils will take place on arrival by class teacher.
- Each class should line up at their designated point with social distancing observed.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email or by phoning the school office.
- Parents/ Guardians should maintain a 2 metre distance from each other during drop off and collection.

End of School Day

- Normal opening hours (2.40 p.m.) will continue to apply.
- Pupils will leave their classroom separately or with their siblings to minimise contact while exiting school building.

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should preferably phone the office or where necessary use the buzzer at the front door of the school to alert school staff that they have arrived
- The child will be brought from their class to the external classroom entry/exit door by a member of staff
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

Break times

- School supervision procedures will be strictly adhered to.
- The school hall will no longer be used as a communal eating area. The children will now eat their lunches at their desks in the classroom under the supervision of their class teacher. Pupils will also be responsible for cleaning their desk and floor area after eating.

Physical Distancing & Layout of Classroom

- In both the junior and senior classrooms, the pupils will be arranged into pods. Each pupil will continue to have their own desk, however, these desks will be grouped together to form pods. There will be at least (1m distance) between individual Pods within each class bubble.
- Teacher desks have been placed two metres away from pupil desks.
- Physical distancing will be applied in the classroom setting. It is acknowledged however that staff will not always be able to maintain physical distance from their pupils and this is not expected where it may have a detrimental impact on the pupil.

Ventilation

- The Department has published guidance setting out the practical steps for good ventilation in accordance with public health advice 'Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools'.
- The guidance sets out an overall approach for schools that windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. The guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) monitors (New section)

- Deployment of ventilation measures can be supplemented and enhanced by the use of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) monitors. (To be supplied to Scoil Naomh Treasa by Department of Education during August/ September 2021).
- These monitors provide a useful general indication that areas/ rooms may not be adequately ventilated and can enable occupants to become familiar with the impact of activities, outdoor weather and window openings on levels of good ventilation within a room.
- Measurements should be made over a minimum of 1 hour, to allow the readings to reach a steady state and to collect a representative sample of data (Air Infiltration and Ventilation Centre, 2020). Short term/spot measurements are unreliable and should not be used.

Personal Equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that all pupils 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.
- Each pupil will also have a storage box under their desks for their belongings, books, copies etc.
- At the beginning of the year, the children will be provided with their own individual maths equipment (counters, clock, multiplication square), scissors, whiteboard and wiper. This equipment has been cleaned and wiped down with sterile wipes. It will also be kept in the children's storage boxes.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used 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.

Homework:

- Homework will resume from the first full week of school in September. It will consist of reading and spelling activities for both the Junior and Senior classroom. Homework will be viewed regularly by your child's class teacher but not physically corrected.

Learning Support

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

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers will be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- Where pupils receive support in the SET's classroom, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group. If pupils are attending the support teacher with other pupils in their pod, the pupils will sit at opposite ends of the length of the table.
- The tables in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending. The pupils in the senior class will bring their own chairs to the support classroom.
- A protective screen has been purchased for the learning support classroom for the one to one teaching of pupils. The mobile screen purchased for the office can also be used in the learning support room.

PPE

- All school staff (teachers and secretary) have access to medical grade masks.
- Face coverings are not recommended to be worn by children under 13 years.

School Cleaning

- The school will be cleaned daily. The focus will be on frequently touched surfaces – door handles as well as sink and toilet facilities.
- All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area.

School staff

- A Return to Work form will be completed and returned to the school before returning to work. Schools should request staff (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 school holidays.
- School staff will continue to have their lunch in a socially distanced manner in the school hall.
- The staffroom will be limited to one teacher at a time when administrative work and photocopying is being completed.
- A mobile protective screen has been purchased for our secretary who works in the office on a Tuesday and Wednesday. This will continue to allow access brief access for teachers to collect printed sheets and school laptops/tablets from the office.
- The school phone will also continue to be wiped down after each use by staff members.

School Visitors including Parents & Guardians

- Visits to the school will be severely restricted and visitors are asked to make an appointment.
- Please ring 0598632522 or email office@scoilnaomhtreasa.ie

Before visiting Scoil Naomh Treasa, please observe the following:

- Remain at home if you have any Covid-19 symptoms
- Follow the agreed Covid-19 protocols for the school
- Sanitise before entering the premises
- Attendance to be recorded on entry to building
- Wear a mask or face covering
- Adhere to social distancing requirements
- Do not loiter – complete your business and leave premises

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 will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff.
 1. Isolation Area 1: DEIS room at the end of the school beside store room (Accessed from outside)
 2. Isolation Area 2: School Hall

The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times

- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if one is available. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises

- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has 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
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will suggest activities to support the child's learning at home. These activities will be shared with parents via email.

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 confirmed case of Covid-19

- The parents of all children in the class will be notified
- Public health advice will be sought and followed

This plan is a living document. It will be under constant review and will be updated in line with the latest public health advice and with the latest guidelines from the Department of Education.

We appreciate your co-operation during these challenging times.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.