



Parteen National School

Parteen

Co. Clare

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Plan for Reopening of Parteen National School School

26/6/2020

The DES published a roadmap for reopening schools: <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/framework-for-reopening-and-operating-schools.html>. It is widely acknowledged that it does not contain the detail schools need and have been told clarity will be issued later in June and July. While we would normally wait for clarity, it is important to put draft measures in place so that staff and the school community are reassured that Covid-19 is being taken seriously and have confidence in returning to school.

We have consulted with all staff and all members of the Parents Association on a draft plan for reopening. We asked for written feedback. All feedback was considered in detail. We have adjusted the original draft as much as possible taking into account the feedback.

We will review this plan on Tuesday, August 25th. Changes are announced weekly with the Covid-19 pandemic. DES Guidance is still pending. We will review all updated guidance on the aforementioned date. We hope, in publishing this today, you will see we have taken every measure we can for a safe return for our school community.

We want everyone to take a summer break knowing that we will update this plan on the date noted taking into account the most up-to-date guidance. When school reopens, it will be a 'fluid' document that will need to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Covid-19 Lead Person

Saranne O' Rourke.

Saranne will have responsibility for the plan and be the link person for the school community and Principal/ BOM.

School Groups

To minimise contact between pupils, the school will operate based on four groups for arrival, dismissal, movement through the school and breaks as follows:

Jl/S1

1st/ 2nd

3rd/4th

5th/ 6th

Within these four groups, each class will be separated and will not be mixing, in so far as possible. The arrangements to minimise this are set out here.

Specific Arrangements

Morning Club.

Will take place in hall. Hall to be divided into quadrants. Children to stay in their own section: Jl/SI, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th and 5th/ 6th

Infant Club

Will operate as normal but with children from the three infant classes at different groups.

Homework Club

This will operate as normal but with children from the separate groups sitting together.

After School Activities

We will assess the guidelines from sporting agencies and DES and review closer to the time.

Staggered Drop off times

As it stands, parents may drop off between 8.50am and 9am. This will be extended as outlined below. If it is possible for families to adhere to the following, we ask for cooperation on it. If not, we understand.

8.50-8.55am 5th/6th Line up in yard. Separate lines.

8.55-9.00am 3rd/4th Line up on yard. Separate lines.

9.00-9.05 1st/2nd Go straight to classroom.

9.05-9.10 Jl/SI Go straight to classroom.

Families just make one drop off – the sibling proceeds directly to their classroom if after 9am. If a family is dropping before 9am all line up on yard in their usual class lines. We ask that parents/ guardians do not stay on yard. Note, children should never be dropped before 8.50am.

If it is raining, children proceed to their classrooms between 8.50 and 9am instead of lining up in corridors and hall. Existing morning supervision arrangements will remain in place.

Staggered Collections

As it stands, infants are collected at 1.40pm and the rest of the school at 2.40pm. This will be adjusted as outlined below. If it is possible for families to adhere to the following, we ask for cooperation on it. If not, we understand.

Infants 1.40pm as normal

1st/2nd 2.30

3rd/4th 2.35

5th/6th 2.40

Allocated Doors

The following classes must use these doors only when entering and exiting the building with their teachers:

Ms. Neville's and Ms. Needham's: Main building back door, close to staffroom.

Ms. Meskell's, Ms. Ryan's, Ms. O' Keeffe's and Ms. Coughlan's: Main building front door.

Mr. Hickey's, Ms. Cuddy's, Ms. Quilty's and Ms. Barry's: Top door of new building.
Ms. Sheahan's, Ms. Neylon's, Mr. Collins': Bottom door of new building.

Breaks

We will operate our usual rota for Junior roster and Senior roster. However, only half the classes will go out to the yard for their playtime. On the days when a class group are not scheduled to go out the class teacher can take the children outside at a different time for a break, just to get fresh air and play.

Week 1 and 3 of month:

Junior roster: JI-2nd

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: Junior Infants and Senior Infants go out to yard.

Tuesday/Thursday: First and Second classes go out to yard.

Senior roster: Third – Sixth.

Mon/Wed/Fri: Third and Fourth classes go out to yard.

Tues/Thurs: Fifth and Sixth classes go out to yard.

Week 2 and 4 of month:

Junior roster: JI-2nd

Mon/Wed/Fri: First and Second classes go out to yard.

Tues/ Thurs: Junior Infants and Senior Infants go out to yard.

Senior roster: Third – Sixth.

Mon/Wed/Fri: Fifth and Sixth classes go out to yard.

Tues/Thurs: Third and Fourth classes go out to yard.

Playground

A new rota will apply. Every class will be given a 'day'. There are 13 classes next year. That day, the teacher will be asked to bring the class out for an extra break to play in the playground. It will be sanitised that evening.

Monthly Assemblies

Principal will conduct these in each individual class.

Minimising Visitors

No adults should enter the building other than school staff. All meetings will take place over phone/ via Zoom.

Parent/ Teacher Meetings

These may take place via phone/ zoom or be postponed. We will assess the situation closer to the time. These typically take place in November.

Illness

Parents must keep children at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms, available here, <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html> Staff must not attend school if they display any symptoms. If a child displays symptoms at school, parents/ guardians will be asked to collect them.

Sick Bay while awaiting collection

Any child who displays Covid-19 symptoms will be directed to the unused corridor in the Junior Building near the sensory room exit which will be the waiting area for the sick child and for the parents to collect. Chairs will be placed there and child will be supervised.

Nobody else may enter this area while a child is awaiting collection. It will be sanitised by cleaning staff after the child leaves.

School Hall

P.E. will only take place outside. The hall will not be used for sports – just for individual children with SNA/ Support Teachers. It will be used for support teaching.

Hygiene

30 Wall hung sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom. Each teacher also has a hand sanitizer on their desk. Disinfectant wipes have been purchased. These will be used to wipe down the photocopier after use by each individual using it. A packet will be given to each teacher should they need to wipe anything.

A disinfectant spray has been purchased. This is a special spray that disinfects surfaces but does not need to be wiped. This will significantly reduce the time that it will take to disinfect surfaces. Here are the details:

Brill Blue:

Brill is a cleaner and sanitiser. As the product is PH neutral it is safe to use on all surfaces and it is safe to use around sensitive skin, asthma sufferers or people sensitive to strong chemicals.

Brill Blue can be sprayed onto surfaces without needing to be rinsed off. It will provide an exceptionally high rate of antibacterial action killing far above the usual 99.9% antibacterial products.

It is effective against Corona Virus, Ecoli, MRSA and the Noro Virus among many other bacteria, fungi and viruses.

Refills for all of these have been purchased.

All staff and children must sanitise every time they enter the room.

It is intended that a cleaner will be present each day from 10-11am and again from 12-1pm.

We await DES Guidance on funding available, recommended cleaning during the day and must consult with availability of existing cleaning staff. They will spray all common touch areas mentioned with Brill Blue, refill soaps and sanitisers at this time.

All internal classroom doors, where practical, to be left open, to minimise touching of common areas.

Visers have been purchased. All staff will wear visers. Staff may wear gloves or continue to sanitise throughout the day.

Parents and staff to remind children re hand washing after toilet use.

Support Teachers

These are timetabled to work between four and five classes. All support teachers to sanitise or wear gloves and change them after dealing with each group. Visers to be worn.

SNAs

SNAs to wear Viser and sanitise throughout the day/ and or wear gloves and change them when moving to their next child.

Office

Only Catherine can enter secretary's office. All communication from parents should be via phone.

Phone

Only Catherine may use the school phone. Gerard will use office phone. Staff will be given expenses to use their own phone for school calls should they incur extra charges.

Lunches

Parents must ensure children come with lunches etc. to prevent adults coming to school during the day. No sharing of lunches/ drinks among children.

Photocopying.

Sterilised wipes to be left at both copiers –user to wipe copier after use.

School Supplies

Parents to supply full sets of school supplies and ensure child brings them to school each day so they are not borrowing pens/ colours. If a teacher has to lend a school item to a child, the teacher will be wipe it with disinfectant wipes before and after.

Class Teaching Team Teaching

Mata sa Rang/ Graded Reading/ Literacy Lift Off resources – these are shared resources and are only used with one class at a time.

Class teachers and support teachers will still maintain as much a distance as possible while class teaching and team teaching. Use of visor, gloves/ sanitising will be essential. As with all aspects of this plan, we await DES Guidance.

Support Rooms

Some support teachers have indicated their rooms are too small and may need a larger space for some groups. They will be given the option of using the hall. A timetable will be done up. While not ideal, it will be possible for support teachers to work together in different corners of the room, should they feel their rooms are too small for a particular group.

Staff Room

Staff must sanitise before entering or put on fresh gloves. Tables and chairs will be split between the staffroom and spare room (formerly Ms. Sheahan's Room). Once the main staffroom is full staff will start using the spare room.

IPads and laptops

These will be divided out among all classes. Each class will have a few of each but these will not be shared between classes.

PE Equipment

This is to be divided up at the start of the year and each class grouping mentioned to hold their own set of equipment in one of their rooms.

Sensory Room

Sanitise before use. All fixed equipment to be wiped with disinfectant wipes after use by adult attending with the child. Support teachers and SNAs do divide up mobile sensory equipment and SNAs/ support teachers children to keep these in a bag in classroom – this equipment to be brought to and from sensory room.

Books/ Copies

We await DES Guidance on handling of pupil copies.

Temperature Checks

Parents check child's temperatures before school each day and do not send children if children have a high temperature. Thermofocus thermometers will be in place for every classroom so staff, if they wish, can check temperatures.

Deliveries

All deliveries must be left at the back door, near the sensory room. Deliveries must be planned when Liam is present to take in the items.

Training

We understand the DES will issue Training for teachers and pupils and we await publication of same.

P.E. Timetable

A P.E. Timetable will be completed as normal but will also include the slots for extra break for classes who do not have yard outside on a particular day.

Returning to Work

Staff should, if they have underlying medical conditions or live with anyone with an underlying medical condition, should consult with their Union or DES for advice on leave available to them.

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0024_2020.pdf

Three days before we reopen, staff must complete a Return to Work Form. This has not been issued yet but we understand it will include the following questions and if somebody answers *Yes* they must follow DES/ HSE advice.

*Do you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days? Yes/No,
Have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days? Yes/No,*

Are you a close contact of a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days (i.e. less than 2m for more than 15 minutes accumulative in 1 day)? Yes/No,

Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time? Yes/No,

Have you been advised by a doctor to cocoon at this time? Yes/No.

Sub Teachers

Sub teachers must answer the aforementioned questions before starting in Parteen School. They must follow all measures outlined in this document. Visor will be sanitised after use.

Professional Visitors.

Adults entering the school will be minimised. Sometimes, they are necessary e.g. I.T. maintenance, school psychologist etc. They will be asked to sanitise, wear a visor and sign the 'return to work questions' noted above.

First Aid

This will be administered as normal but if staff are wearing gloves a fresh pair must be put on first. Visor must be worn. Gloves must be changed afterwards as per normal procedures.

Curriculum

All teachers will start from where the children are. Many teachers are continuing with the children they had last year, both in class and support settings. Where this is not the case, curriculum progress records are available to new teachers which detail the curriculum covered last year. Teachers are having 'handover' meetings in June where the existing teacher informs the new teacher of progress. Children attending support settings will continue with the targets set out in the January 2020 review of IPLP/IEPs. IEP's/IPLPS will be reviewed in January 2021.

SPHE

Ms. Ryan has documented what has not been covered in the Stay Safe strand of SPHE and this will be prioritised for September.

Blended Learning

If a child is ill and cannot come to school, the support teacher assigned to that class for Literacy and Numeracy will be asked to work with the class teacher in providing learning activities for home.

Further Closures

If there are further closures, we will review our current Distance Learning Policy.

Money

Money will be collected via epayments.

Ratified by BOM on 26/6/2020
Seamus Gallagher, Chairperson