



Gaelscoil Dara 2021

- **Pleanáil agus Ullmhúchán chun Filleadh ar Scoil**
- **Plean Freagartha COVID-19**

Gaelscoil Dara – Plan for reopening the school September 2021

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make an 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.

School Plan

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
- The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different starting times, break times, lunch times and finishing times.
- Groups will be constituted of one stream from Junior Infant classes to 6th Class and another stream of Junior Infants to 6th.
- The day will include the normal break/lunch times albeit at staggered times
- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods where possible.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms.

Timetables

Timetable for Group A	Timetable for Group B
8.30-8.40 School start	8.40– 8.50 School start
10.30– Break time	10.50– Break time
10.45 Class resumes	11.05 – Class resumes
12.10– Lunch time	12.40 – Lunch time
12.35– Class resumes	1.05 – Class resumes
1.20 – Infant classes finish	1.30 – Infant classes finish
2.20 1st – 6th Classes finish	2.30 1st – 6th Classes finish

Classes in Group A Start time 8:30	Classes in Group B Start time 8:40
Naí. Bheaga A	Naí. Bheaga B
	Naí. Bheaga C
Naí. Mhóra A	Naí. Mhóra B
Rang 1(A)	Rang 1 (B)
Rang 2 (A)	Rang 2 (B)
Rang 3 (A)	Rang 3 (B)
Rang 4 (A)	Rang 4 (B)
Rang 5 (A)	Rang 5 (B)
Rang 6 (A)	Rang 6 (B)

Key to Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Entrance to the new extension (nearest main gate)	1
Front main entrance of school	2
1 st Entrance into School Hall	3
2 nd Entrance into School Hall	Feitheoireacht na Maidine
Door to the right of the Naíonra	4
Door at the rear of the school opposite play area	5
Door at the rear of school in the far corner	6

Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point
Múinteoir Amy	Jun.Infants(A)	1
Múinteoir Elaine	Jun.Infants(B)	1
Múinteoir Órlaith	Jun.Infants (C)	1
Múinteoir Clíodhna	Snr.Infants(A)	2
Múinteoir Mícheál	Snr.Infants (B)	2
Múinteoir Martina	First class (A)	3

Múinteoir Deirdre/Róisín	1 st class (B)	3
Múinteoir Kate (Sarah)	2 nd class (A)	4
Múinteoir Pádraig	2 nd class (B)	4
Múinteoir Róisín Ní Nualláin	3 rd class (A)	5
Múinteoir Róisín Ní Dhomhnaill	3 rd class (B)	5
Múinteoir Gearóidín	4 th class (A)	6
Múinteoir Mari	4 th class (B)	6
Múinteoir Danielle	5 th class (A)	6
Múinteoir Caoimhín	5 th class (B)	6
Múinteoir Rút	6 th class (A)	6
Múinteoir Colm	6 th class (B)	6

Arrival and departure procedures for children and parents ;

- **N.B.** Morning supervision is available in the Halla . Please contact the office to make arrangements. Children will use the 2nd door in the Halla to enter the school.
- “Gliondara”, after school care will continue to be available.

- **Morning time ;**

- Parents must arrive on time for leaving in and collecting their child.
- Each group should aim to arrive at the school at the allotted start time
Group A 8.30 – 8.40
Group B 8.40 – 8.50

We ask for your co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.

- Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised, are allowed to drop off and collect children.
- Any parent who is in a high risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves. (This of course is at the discretion of the individual parent/carer/grandparent’s discretion)
- Staggered arrival times will be put in place for 8.30 am and 8.40 am.
- On entering the school yard, a parent must proceed immediately to their child’s Line Up area.
- Each child should line up at the designated point with social distancing observed.

Please note: there are a number of marked spaces available – children must remain in their cars / with parents until a space is available in order to observe the 2m social distancing rule.

- Parents need to ensure their child's hands are free in order to sanitise hands on entering the school . (Please think how schoolbags will be held)
- Parents must remain with their child until handover has taken place.
- Parents must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
- A teacher and /or Special Needs Assistant will invite the children to enter the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- Children will sanitise their hands on entering the school building.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email or by phoning the school office.
 - Under no circumstances are parents to linger in the yard after the child has been handed over but are to leave immediately.
 - If a parent has more than one child, the other children stay with them and having handed over the first child, they may proceed to the second line up area.

Afternoon – end of school day

- Home times will be staggered for classes (please see group times A and B)
- Parents must;
(For younger children Infants – 2nd) line up at the designated door, maintaining 2m social distancing and wait for their child.
The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them
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(For older children 3 – 6 Class) wait outside the school in their cars and maintain social distancing when waiting to collect a child.
The class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact
- All must leave the yard immediately after collection.
- No parent will be allowed within the school building- *if you need to speak to a teacher please email or phone the school.*

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, please phone the office to alert the school that they have arrived.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to provide details for the school contact log to a member of staff.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

Gaelscoil Dara - plan for re-opening of the school (Part B)

Planning and Preparing for Return to School

It is in the interest of the whole school community that we take precautions to stay safe and protect each other. It is our hope that all the children will feel safe and happy on their return to school and are not unduly stressed and to this end we encourage you to prepare your child by talking about the importance of good hygiene, using a sanitiser, social distancing and general chat about class pods /groups. Please read the following information carefully, as it contains important protocols for returning to school.

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19

Induction Training

All staff will undertake and complete Covid-19 Induction Training prior to returning to the school building. The aim of such training is to ensure that staff have full knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Latest up to-date advice and guidance on public health;
- Covid-19 symptoms;
- What to do if a staff member or pupil develops symptoms of Covid-19 while at school;
- Outline of the Covid-19 response plan

Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)

In order to return to the workplace, all staff must complete a Return to Work (RTW) form, this form will be completed and returned 3 days before returning to work.

Lead Worker Representative (LWR)

A Lead worker Representative and a Deputy lead worker, have been appointed in the school. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

Display signage

Schools are required to display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Update Safety and Risk Assessment

A risk assessment to identify the control measures required to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in school settings will be completed. The school will review their emergency procedures involving, fire safety, first aid, accidents and dangerous occurrences to consider any new risks that arise due to COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of primary and special schools — Any changes to the school's existing emergency procedures will be documented and incorporated into the school's safety statement.

Access to the School and Contact Log

Access to the school building will be in line with agreed school procedures. Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal. A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities will be maintained.

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

A range of essential control measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, pupils, parents and visitors as far as possible within the school. The control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis. 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 - Key facts for parents

COVID – 19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways and is caused by a new virus called the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets. To infect you, it has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). If you come into close contact with someone who is shedding the virus and who is coughing or sneezing or if you touch - with your hands - surfaces or objects that someone who has the virus has coughed or sneezed on, and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes without having washed your hands thoroughly you may contract the virus.

As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it, so it is important to keep up to date and make sure you are using the most up to date guidance available. This information is available from the following links:

- HSE-HPSC: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- HSE Hub: <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- Department of Health: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- [fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#) - including having chills
- dry cough
- fatigue (tiredness)

Less common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](#) – this could mean they're completely gone or just different to normal
- 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
- diarrhea
- chills or dizziness

Symptoms of severe COVID-19 disease include:

- [shortness of breath](#) or breathing difficulties
- loss of appetite
- confusion
- pain or pressure in the chest
- [fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#)

You may not have all of these symptoms or your symptoms may be mild. Symptoms may vary for different age groups or variants of the virus.

Best practice for Parents and Pupils:

In order to prevent the spread of the virus pupils need to practice the following;

- **Hand hygiene -Wash hands with soap and water (which is the best method to get rid of germs) and use a hand sanitiser. Pupils will be required to sanitise their hands;**
 - a) **Coming into school**
 - b) **Before eating lunch or drinking**
 - c) **After using the bathroom**
 - d) **Coming in after break time**
 - e) **When hands are dirty**
 - f) **When they cough or sneeze**
- **Practice good Respiratory hygiene: When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.**
- **Maintain social or physical distancing:** that is, leave **at least 2 metres (6 feet)** distance between yourself and other people where possible, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever.

- **Do not engage in handshaking or hugging**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth** – if you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself

Children who should not attend school

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

- **Pupils should not attend school if displaying ANY symptoms of Covid-19**
- Children who are generally unwell- **If the child has a temperature, is sneezing, coughing, who has been vomiting or has diarrhoea.**
- 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
- **N.B. If you have recently travelled abroad - Please check the most up to date information relating to foreign travel and the guidelines around quarantine. See the link below; <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/75d92-covid-19-travel-advice/>**

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 by a member of staff. 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. He/she should wear the mask until collected.
- 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.

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time due to the reasons above, the class teacher (and/or the learning support teacher, where relevant) will suggest appropriate activities to parents to support the child's learning at home.

Responsibilities for Parents:

- Parents must ensure that all of the child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot be shared.
- Parents are to ensure that their child knows and uses the protocols around coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.
- Parents must ensure that all **books/writing equipment/lunch boxes/water bottles** are sanitised using alcohol wipes on completion of homework before being placed in the child's schoolbag.
- Children will need to bring their own water bottles to school. We advise parents to supply the children with ample drinks as water coolers are no longer available in school. Water bottles are to be filled at home every evening.
- Pencils to be pared at home and copies ruled.
- Children are to go to the bathroom **before** they leave home for school daily.
- Children are to wash their hands **before** leaving for school
- Children's clothes must be clean and washed regularly as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols.

Please note; School lunches will be provided as normal apart from the bottles of water.

Hygiene and cleaning:

- Soap, hot water, paper towels, sanitiser and bins have been provided in every classroom.
- There is a sanitising station at each entry / exit.
- Each teacher has been provided with a cleaning / sanitising pack
- The school has been deep cleaned and extra hygiene measures are in place in line with the HSE and DES guidelines.
- Additional time will be spent by the hygiene staff in cleaning the school.

Making changes to school layout - Children's learning spaces:

Maintaining physical distancing in the school environment is recommended as one of the key control measures to minimize the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID19

- All excess furniture will be removed from the classroom where possible so as to provide additional space.
- Staff in the Junior classes (Infants – 2nd) will reconfigure their classrooms to create pods with 1 metre between the pods. In the Senior classes (3rd – 6th) staff will reconfigure their classrooms to ensure a one metre distance between pupils where possible. Pupils will be organised into pods within the classroom.
- Classes will be organised into bubbles and as far as possible, interaction between classes outside of the bubble will not take place.

- Resources that can be easily cleaned will be used and toys and materials that are difficult to clean e.g. dress up clothes or soft toys during this temporary Covid-19 emergency will only be used within a pod and washed/ sanitised regularly.
- Pupils will not be allowed to share materials/resources.

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.

Outdoor Play Areas

Each stream of 9 class bubbles will have access to the outdoor play areas during their allotted break times. Break times will be staggered in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. Classes within the same grade will use the same area for each break, albeit at staggered times, for the 1st term. Outdoor play Areas will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's .

Please note:

The school playground is not available for use at any time during the school day or at collection times. In the interests of health and safety, once parents have collected their children they must leave the school premises immediately.

Special Educational needs

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 children receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The tables and chairs, computers and ipads, in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

Use of PPE in Schools

PPE will be worn by staff in the form of a visor and /or face mask, staff who are attending to or particular care needs who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks.

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class as per DES guidelines. It is not appropriate for the children to be accommodated in other classes.

Physical education

Where possible and weather permitting, PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment will be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings.

Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities

Extracurricular Activities

The Board of Management are prioritising the re-opening of Gaelscoil Dara, the Naíonra and Gliondara and essential services, as per CPMSA guidelines. In regard to extracurricular activities the BOM are following the most recent Covid 19 guidelines. Therefore;

- All activities which are group based are postponed for the time being.
- Activities which are organised for individual pupils on a 1-1 basis are allowed where Covid guidelines are being followed.

We will endeavour to keep parents updated .