

# Plans for Re-opening Glasheen Girls' School, August 2020

## Underlying Principles

- GLASHEEN GIRLS' School has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents & staff. This plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
- In keeping with public health advice & 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 entirely 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.
- Co-operation, **flexibility and goodwill** of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented. We hugely appreciate your understanding.

## Particular points to Note:

- School will **start at 8.50 a.m.** School **Gates** will be open from 8.30 am. Once pupils enter the school grounds, they will need to go directly to their classrooms.

## Parents will not be able to enter the school grounds

Health advice is that **parents Drop & Go**

- **Pupils will need to Keep to the Left** on corridors, stairs and pathways.
- **Morning Assembly** in the school yard will **not** take place, for now. We **must avoid all large gatherings** of people waiting in groups together outside the school premises.
- Pupils where possible are encouraged to, **Walk** or **'Park & Stride'**. This will help avoid unnecessary traffic congestion on School Avenue.
- In order to preserve Covid 19 safety guidelines, all **Afterschool Clubs** and **Homework Clubs** will have to be suspended, until further notice.
- **Break times** will be staggered and there will be a slight staggering of **finishing times** also. It is important that your daughter is collected at the appointed time.

Parking & striding at collection time is necessary to avoid severe congestion and delays on School Avenue.

- For the safety of all, **if anyone is unwell**, they must NOT attend school. Anybody **returning from overseas**, must
  1. Inform the school
  2. Not attend school for 2 weeks in accordance with public health advice
- For safety reasons, **unscheduled visits to the school office** cannot take place. If you need to contact the school, please do so by email or telephone and we will get back to you, as soon as possible. Hand delivered items may be posted in the letterbox on the railings at the front of the school.
- **Collection of pupils, from school, during the school day**, should be kept to emergencies only. If you need to collect your daughter early, please email the school the night before, with an exact time of collection, so your daughter can be ready at the appointed time and we have a record of the collection. Pupils who need to leave school for appointments during the school day, should not return until the following day.

### **Starting Dates**

- In order to ensure a safe and orderly start, **3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Classes** will return to school on **Thursday 27th August @ 8.50 a.m. Gates open at 8.30am**
- **Senior Infants, 1st Class and 2nd Class (ONLY)** will return to school on **Friday 28th August @ 8.50 a.m. Gates open at 8.30am**
- **Le Cheile Class & our new Junior Infant girls** will start on **Monday 31st August @ 10.00 a.m.** (more details to follow).
- The school is split into 4 groups with each group having different break times and lunch times.
- The day will include 2 x 20 minute breaks.
- We will observe social distancing in classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes (in line with DES Guidelines)
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms.
- Children will come to school with their hands washed. Sanitation will occur on entry to the school, after each yard break and before home-time. Children will also wash their hands before they eat. All surfaces will be cleaned daily.

- Where possible, parents will encourage children to walk or **Park & Stride** to school to minimise the number of adults around the school. Ideally, in the case of children in middle or older classes, a designated meeting point should be arranged nearby but not at the gate of the school. You could, for example, meet your daughter at Lima Lawn, Glendale, Clashduv, or one of the other areas on your route.
- **Gates will remain closed until 8.30 a.m. Classes will not start until 9.00 a.m. (initially, until everyone gets used to the new procedures). Pupils will be directed straight to their classrooms.**

### **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 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. 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. She should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises.
- 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 G.P.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover her 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 her 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 the child is 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. (We understand that further advice is due shortly from the HSE).

**Homework** - Our homework policy is being reviewed in light of the pandemic Pupils will not get homework initially.  
Updates will follow.

### **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 provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home with parents.

### **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

- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

### **Personal Equipment**

- It is requested that children use their **own pens, pencils, colours, erasers**, etc., in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. These pencil cases will remain in school.
- It is further requested that all items have the **child's name on them for ease of identification**, this includes jumpers/tracksuit tops/coats.

## **Shared Equipment**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared. 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.

## **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 work mainly in one classroom.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must 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 in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

## **P.P.E.**

Face guards and masks are available to all staff. Staff will also receive training and will adhere to all up to date advice on Covid-19 protocol and will practise social distancing amongst themselves during break times.

While masks are not required by pupils in school, parents can decide to give their child/children masks if they deem it necessary.

## **Uniforms**

To facilitate easy laundering, the school tracksuit or uniform may be worn by all pupils, on any given day, until the mid-term break in October. The Board of Management will review this decision at that stage for the second half of the term.

## **Teacher Absence and Substitution**

In the event that teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

**P.E.** P.E. will take place outdoors. Please ensure that your daughter has suitable outdoor shoes everyday as children will have regular breaks in the yard as recommended by the DES.

**School Lunches** –Lunches will not commence until Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Pupils are to bring their own lunches with them for the first week.

**Support Teaching** – We will have support teachers assigned to every class.