



Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Bóthar Vevay, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin.

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Reopening Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh 26th August 2021

Dear Parents

We hope that your children and yourselves are healthy and well. We look forward to reopening our school and to re-activate our great school community.

We are following guidelines from the Department of Education & Skills and you can access the School Covid Response Plan on the school website. You will find a form on the school website for parents to complete **before** your child returns to school along with further information for parents. Please send the form to the office: oifig@gaelscoiluicheadaigh.ie **before 26/08/2021**.

Further information for parents and families can be found on <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#>

Implementation

- All children return to school.
- Classes operate within a group or a 'bubble' system.
- Two classes at a time have access to the yard on break times and the yard will be marked (children stay on their own side and do not mix with the other class).
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and at entry points (gel, liquid and soap).
- It is a good idea for your child to have their own hand sanitizer (non-alcohol) so they can re-sanitize when they choose to.

Dates and Times for Re-opening

- All classes from Senior Infants to 6th Class will return to school on Thursday 26th August.
- Junior Infants will begin school over two days, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th August, with half the class each day. Individual text messages will confirm which of these days your child will attend. All Junior Infants will attend from Monday 30th August.
- Junior Infants will finish at 12.00 p.m. until Monday 13th September.
- Rang a 1 will finish at 1.30 p.m. until Monday 6th September.

Timetable for Classes

Starting Time	Finishing Time	Class
8:50 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	Junior Infants (from 13/09/21)
8:50 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	Rang 1 (from 06/09/2021)
8:50 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	Rang 2
8:50 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	Rang 4
8:50 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	Rang 6
9:00 a.m.	2:40 p.m.	Rang 3
9:00 a.m.	2:40 p.m.	Rang 5
9:00 a.m.	1:40 p.m.	Senior Infants

Accessing & Exiting the School Grounds

To better ensure the maintenance of social distancing, a one-way system will operate for all.

Access the school grounds via the **pedestrian gate**.

Exit the school grounds via the **main school gate**.

Start of the Day

Entering/exiting flow arrows will be clearly marked on the ground at the entrance to the school. **We ask parents not to enter the grounds** (with the exception of Junior Infants and Senior Infant parents who may stand in line with their children until the teacher admits their child. A social distance of at least 2 metres between each person in the line is expected. Parents are asked to leave the grounds and not congregate after drop off to ensure traffic flow). Parents/Guardians are **not** permitted to enter the school building.

Messages for teachers can be sent by email/phoning school office. We will let you know when Seesaw is available for use.

Entering Points/Exit Points to Classrooms:

Entrance & Exit Points	Class
Main Entrance	Rang 1
Main Entrance	Rang 2
Main Entrance	Rang 5
Black Door Entrance	Rang 4
Black Door Entrance	Rang 6
Black Door Entrance	Rang 3
Junior Infant Door	Junior Infants
Senior Infant Door	Senior Infants

Stewards will be on hand for the first two days to assist implementation

End of School Day

Junior Infants and Senior Infants: Infant parents may enter the school yard to collect their children from the door to their child's class while adhering to social distancing practices. Children will be allowed into the care of the adult who is there to collect them on a one to one basis.

Rang a 1 and Rang a 2: The class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact. Parents of these classes may enter the school yard to collect their children while adhering to the two metre social distancing practices. *Any child who is not collected must return to their class (where the teacher can ring the parent/guardian - please discuss this with your child).*

Rang a 3 – Rang a 6: The class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact. These classes will leave the school grounds independently in order to ensure minimum numbers in the yard. *Any child who is not collected must return to their class (where the teacher can ring the parent/guardian - please discuss this with your child).*

We ask that parents leave the school grounds directly and not congregate after drop off or collection.

Wet Mornings

Please buy raincoats and encourage your children to wear them unless sunny as many children arrive in with no coat and we are advised to get as much fresh air as possible so unless it is very wet, we hope to go out into the yard at break times.

Collection of children during the school day/in an emergency situation

- Parent/adult minder needs to phone the office or use intercom when they arrive.
- The child will be brought to the door.
- The adult will be asked to sign the child out as is usual practice.
- The adult must hand sanitize, wear a mask and fill in the 'Contract Tracing Log' which will be at the entrance to the school.

School Uniform/Tracksuit

The class teacher will advise in advance when the school tracksuit will be required. School uniform to be worn on all other days.

After-School Supervision

Supervision service will not be available for Infants at this time and until further notice.

PPE

PPE will be worn by staff as prescribed by the Department of Education and in accordance with the Guidelines. Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves, face masks and visors. This equipment will be available to all members of staff. Staff members in 'at risk' category should take extra precaution in this regard.

Personal Equipment and Lunch Boxes

As per booklists (on school website), First Class up to Sixth Class will have a certain amount of books and supplies which will be left at home. A pencil case with pens, pencils, colouring pencils, rubbers etc will be needed - one for home and one for school to avoid the sharing of equipment. Specific requirements will be communicated to parents by class teachers as we go forward.

Please have your child's name on all their books and belongings.

Children in Junior and Senior Infants will be provided with a container which will hold each child's pencils/crayons etc. And will be labelled with their name.

Schoolbags: These are not necessary at present, we shall update on this going forward. Pencil cases and any books to be brought to school for school use on the first day can be brought in a paper/plastic bag.

Lunch boxes: It is essential that all lunch boxes and water bottles are labelled with the child's name on them. All lunch boxes and bottles will be sprayed down in class before use.

By necessity some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets and the equipment used for structured activities and play in infant classrooms. Cleaning of such equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

Please do not allow your child to bring any unnecessary items or toys to school.

P.E.

P.E. will take place outdoors and equipment will be cleaned thoroughly after use.

Yards

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within those bubbles. All children will be afforded the opportunity for handwashing after each break time. Two classes at a time (different time slots) will use the yard which will be split so that bubbles do not mix.

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 these groups. 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. The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.

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. 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.

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 always maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child.

A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. 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/guardians 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 will 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/guardians 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

Symptoms of Covid-19

As listed on the HSE's website (<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>), common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss of change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You may not have all of these symptoms. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

Supporting the learning of children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, appropriate resources and suggested activities will be made available to support the child's learning at home. These will be shared with parents either via email or Seesaw when up and running again.

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.

Wellness Recipe: Plenty of sleep, activity outdoors and laughter! 😊

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Gearóidín Ní Bhaoill

Príomh Oide