



Balla N.S. Covid-19 School Response Plan

The document has been prepared based on current public health advice and will continue to be updated as further public advice is received.

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. COVID-19 School Policy
2. Planning and Preparing for Return to School
 - a. School Building
 - b. Signage
3. Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)
4. Return to work safely and Lead Worker Representative(s)
5. Safety Statement and Risk Assessment
6. General advice to prevent the spread of the virus
 - a. Wash your Hands Frequently
 - b. Hand Hygiene and Hand Sanitizer
 - c. Avoid Touching your Eyes, Nose and Mouth
 - d. Physical Distancing
 - e. Practice Respiratory Hygiene

f. People at Very High Risk (Extremely Vulnerable)

7. Managing the Risk of Spread of Covid-19

8. Control Measures

- a. Return to Work Form
- b. Induction Training
- c. Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
- d. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- e. Wearing of Gloves
- f. Cleaning
- g. Access to the School Building / Contact Log
- h. First Aid / Emergency Procedure

9. Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

10. Requirements of Staff Members

11. Covid-19 related absence management

12. Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme

13. Special Education Teaching (S.E.T)

14. Curriculum

15. Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities.

16. Specific Arrangements

The assistance and cooperation of all staff, pupils, parents/guardians, contractors and visitors is critical to the success of the plan. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this document. However, should errors or omissions be identified, please notify us so that appropriate measures can be taken to rectify same. Note: The plan is a live working document and may be reviewed and amended to take into account new guidance from www.Gov.ie, www.dbei.ie www.hse.ie, www.hpsc.ie, www.hsa.ie; www.education.ie;

1. Balla NS Covid -19 Policy



S.N. Bhalla Álainn, Balla Álainn, Caisleán a'Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

*Balla N.S.
Balla
Castlebar
Co Mayo*

■ 094 93 65280

Balla N.S. COVID-19 Policy Statement

Balla National School is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

- continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff
- provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
- agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
- inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- provide instructions for staff and pupils to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
- implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions.

This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s), who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed: Alma Egan (Principal)

Date: 24th August 2020

Signed: John McNicholas (Chairperson)

Date: 24th August 2020

2. Planning and Preparing for Return to School

The Board of Management of Balla N.S. aim to manage the return to the workplace of staff in order to facilitate the resumption of school-based teaching and learning. This return to the workplace must be done safely and with strict adherence to the advice and instructions of public health authorities and the Government. Details for the reopening of the school facility and the applicable controls are outlined in this document.

a. School Buildings

Before the re-opening of the school building for the new school year:

- Water systems will be flushed and samples will be tested to ensure against the presence of Legionella bacteria
- School equipment will be checked for signs of deterioration or damage before being used again
- Waste collection and other essential services will be resumed
- *b. Signage.* The school will display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- 3. Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)
 - In order to return to the workplace, staff must complete a Return to Work (School) [RTW(s)] form, which is available electronically or from the Lead Worker. A RTW form should only be completed at least 3 days prior to any proposed date of return to the workplace. On receipt of the completed form the Lead worker will provide
 - details of the Induction Training for completion by staff prior to the return to the workplace and
 - details of any additional health and safety measures in place in the school to facilitate the staff member's return to the school facility.

Note: Induction Training for staff will be developed by the Department in consultation with stakeholders and made available for all schools and staff members

4. Return to work safely and Lead Worker Representative

Names of Lead & Assistant Lead Worker Representative	Contact details
Ann Marie Sinnott (Lead Worker) Paul de Lacy (Deputy Lead Worker)	094 936 5280

Responsibility for the development and implementation of the Covid-19 Response Plan and the associated control measures lies primarily with the Board of Management and the school's leadership team. The Return to Work Safely protocol provides for an agreed procedure between management and staff to appoint a Lead Worker Representative to carry out a specific role. The role of the Lead Worker Representative is to ensure that Covid-19 measures are adhered to in the workplace by

- working collaboratively with school management to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of employees in relation to COVID-19
- promoting good hygiene practices such as washing hands regularly and maintaining good respiratory etiquette along with maintaining social distancing in accordance with public health advice
- assisting with the implementation of measures to suppress COVID-19 in the workplace
- monitoring adherence to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- consulting with colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace
- making representations on behalf of their colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace. If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the Covid-19 Response Plan and control measures or the adherence to such control measures by staff, parents/guardians, contractors or visitors, he/she should contact the Lead Worker Representative who will engage with the Principal/BOM to represent those concerns or observations. All staff, parents/guardians, contractors and visitors have a responsibility, both as individuals and collectively, to have due regard for their own health and safety and that of others and to assist with the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Plan and associated control measures.

5. Safety Statement and Risk Assessment.

COVID-19 represents a hazard in the context of health and safety in the school environment. The school will conduct a Risk Assessment to identify the control measures required to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in school settings. As part of this Risk Assessment, the school will review its emergency procedures involving, fire safety, first aid, accidents, etc., to consider any new risks that arise due to the COVID-19 School Response Plan. Any changes to the school's existing emergency procedures will be documented.

6. General advice to prevent the spread of the virus.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature · Cough
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste
- The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a school is to minimise the risk of the introduction of the disease into the school setting in the first place. This can be better achieved by
- promoting awareness of COVID-19 and its symptoms amongst staff, pupils, parents and visitors
 - advising staff and parents of pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19 or other acute infectious diseases not to attend school, to phone their GP and to follow the HSE guidance on self-isolation
 - advising staff and parents of pupils who have been identified by the HSE as contact of a person with COVID-19 not to attend schools and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement
 - ensuring that staff and pupils know what to do if they develop symptoms at school
 - requiring everyone entering the school building, to perform hand hygiene with hand sanitizer.
 - ensuring visitors to the school during the day are by prior arrangement and are received at a specific contact point
- Staff, pupils and visitors should at all times adhere to the up to date advice and instructions of the public health authorities in relation to protecting oneself and others against the risk posed by the Covid-19 virus. Updated advice from the HSE is available on its website – <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/> The Department of Education and Skills will ensure all updated advice is circulated to schools. The school will arrange for this advice to be circulated to staff, pupils and parents in a timely manner.

7. Managing the risk of spread of COVID-19

- a. Frequent Hand Washing Regular hand washing with soap and water is effective for the removal of COVID-19. Follow the HSE guidelines on hand washing:*
- b. For advice from HSE on how to wash your hands the following link will be helpful:*
<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>
- c. Hand Hygiene and Hand Sanitisers Hand hygiene can also be achieved by the use of a hand sanitiser (when hands are clean). Hand sanitisers are more readily deployed in school settings to avoid disruption to teaching and learning and to avoid congestion of staff and pupils waiting to use hand washing facilities. They will be available at entry and exit points and in each classroom, on corridors and in reception.*
- d. Avoid Touching Eyes, Nose and Mouth Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. Accordingly, the touching of one's eyes, nose or mouth with one's hands should be avoided.*
- e. Physical Distancing, Physical distancing is recommended to limit the spread of infection in the workplace. Note: Guidance on the physical distancing requirements will be informed by public health advice for schools and will be updated over the summer period.*
- f. Practice respiratory hygiene, All members of the school community are required to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and Covid-19.*
- g. People at Very High Risk (Extremely Vulnerable): Current public health guidelines have identified groups who are defined as being at very high risk. The HSE has set out these groups, which include people who:*
- are over 70 years of age - even if you're fit and well
 - have had an organ transplant
 - are undergoing active chemotherapy for cancer
 - are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
 - have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment

- are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe COPD
- have a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)
- have a serious heart condition and you are pregnant The advice for this group is available from the HSE. Staff who are in this group should self-declare on the Return to Work form, if they believe that they are at very high risk. Details of the leave arrangements that will apply will be updated by the Department of Education and Skills. If the Board/Principal is unsure whether or not staff fall into the very high-risk category, advice will be sought from the Occupational Health Service.

8. Control Measures

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/guardians 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/guardians and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements. *Staff, in particular, should note that they have a legal obligation under Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to comply with health and safety requirements and to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and other parties within the workplace.* The control measures are as follows

- Return to Work Form* Staff will be required to complete a RTW form at least 3 days prior to any return to the school facility. The purpose of the RTW form is to get confirmation from staff that, to the best of his/her knowledge, he/she has no symptoms of Covid-19 and is not self-isolating or cocooning or awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test.
- 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 Staff will be kept fully informed of the control measures in place in the school and their duties and responsibilities in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and with any changes to the control measures or guidance available from the public health authorities. If a staff member is unsure about any aspect of the Covid-19 Response Plan, the associated control measures, or his/her duties, he/she should immediately seek guidance from the Principal.

c. Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

It is crucial that all staff, pupils, parents/guardians, contractors and visitors are familiar with, and adopt, good hand and respiratory hygiene practices. Information posters will be prominently displayed at appropriate locations within the school facility including offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and toilet areas. Such posters are intended to inform but also remind everyone about the importance of hygiene in preventing the spread of Covid-19 virus and protecting health and safety. Hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitisers are available at multiple locations within the school facility and will be available in each classroom.

d. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) PPE will be worn within the school facility according to current occupational and public health guidance. PPE will need to be used due to the nature of certain work activities or work areas. Such instances include where:

- *staff members are assisting with intimate care*
- *staff members are providing first aid*
- *a suspected case of Covid-19 is identified while the school is in operation*
Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. This will be updated in line with advice from the HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre) Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they should apply standard precautions as per usual practice. The use of a face covering will conceal facial expression and can make communication difficult and as such may not be practical in a primary school setting. However, the wearing of a visor as an alternative to a facial covering may be considered where

- *there is a concern that physical distancing cannot be maintained*
- *there will be prolonged close contact and/or*
- *that exposure to fluid/respiratory droplets is likely.*

e. Wearing of Gloves The use of disposable gloves in the school setting by pupils or staff is not appropriate. It does not protect the wearer and may expose others to risk from contaminated gloves. Routine use of disposable gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.

f. Cleaning

All classrooms and shared spaces will be sterilized/cleaned using a fogging system on a weekly basis. In addition to this, regular and thorough cleaning of communal areas and frequently touched surfaces shall be conducted, in particular, toilets, lifts, door handles and kitchens. Cleaning will be performed regularly and whenever facilities or surfaces are visibly dirty.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Under no circumstances should these cleaning materials be removed from the building.

- Cleaners to use all detergents, disinfectants and sprays, as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Cleaners to wear visors/masks and aprons where appropriate.
- Cleaners to take personal responsibility for washing and sanitising hands.

Toys: All toys should be cleaned on a regular basis. This will remove dust and dirt that can harbour germs. Fogger may be used as required in infants.

- Toys that are visibly dirty or contaminated with blood or body fluids should be taken out of use immediately for cleaning or disposal.
- If cloth or soft toys are used they will be machine washable.
- Jigsaws, puzzles and toys that young pupils or those with Special Educational Needs may be inclined to put in their mouths should be capable of being washed and disinfected.
- All play equipment should be checked for signs of damage for example breaks or cracks. If they cannot be repaired or cleaned, they should be discarded.
- Clean toys and equipment should be stored in a clean container or clean cupboard. The manufacturer's cleaning instructions should always be followed.

- At this time, soft modelling materials and play dough where used should be for individual use only.

Cleaning Procedure for Toys

- Wash the toy in warm soapy water, using a brush to get into crevices. Rinse the toy in clean water. Fog clean toys as necessary.
- Thoroughly dry the toy.
- Some hard-plastic toys may be suitable for cleaning in the dishwasher.
- Toys that cannot be immersed in water that is electronic or wind up should be wiped with a damp cloth and dried.
- In some situations, toys/equipment may need to be disinfected following cleaning for example: toys/equipment that pupils place in their mouths.

Visual Art Equipment

- Where possible students should be encouraged to have their own individual art and equipment supplies.

ICT Equipment:

- Shared electronics such as ipads and laptops will be cleaned between use
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products used on electronic devices.
- Consider use of wipe-able covers for electronics to facilitate cleaning.

Library Books:

Where practical, each pupil will have dedicated books.

- Library books/Textbooks that are shared must be covered in a wipeable plastic covering that can be wiped with a suitable household cleaning agent between uses.
- Children should be encouraged to perform hand hygiene after using any shared item.

Shared Sports Equipment:

Children will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after these activities.

- Equipment sharing will be minimised
- Shared equipment must be cleaned between uses.

g. Access to the school building /contact log Access to the school facility will be in line with agreed school procedures. Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents/guardians will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal. The prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a crucial step in restricting the spread of the virus and

protecting the health and safety of the individuals themselves and other staff, contractors and visitors at the workplace. A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities will be maintained.

h. First Aid/emergency procedure The standard First Aid/Emergency procedures shall continue to apply in the school. In an emergency or in the case of a serious incident, an ambulance or fire brigade will be called on 112/999. The principal or nearest first aider should be contacted, giving details of location and type of medical incident.

9. Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Staff or pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately

A member of staff will accompany · The person to the designated isolation area via the isolation route. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic person and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic person at all times

- A mask will be provided for the person 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 individual who is displaying symptoms can immediately be directed to go home/be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the person presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home. The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.
- The person 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 person 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 person 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 and staff confidentiality is essential at all times.

10. Duties of Staff Members

Staff have a statutory obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of their colleagues and other parties. In order to facilitate a safe return to work, staff members are required to

- adhere to the School Covid-19 Response Plan and the control measures outlined - the cooperation and assistance of all staff members are essential to reduce the risk of spread of Covid-19 and to protect health and safety as far, as possible within the school
- coordinate and work with their colleagues to ensure that physical distancing is maintained
- make themselves aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 and monitor their own wellbeing
- self-isolate and contact their GP promptly for further advice, if they display any symptoms of Covid-19
- not return or attend school, if they have symptoms of Covid-19
- adhere to the procedure outlined above, if they develop any symptoms of Covid-19 whilst within the school facility
- complete the RTW form before they return to work
- inform the Principal if there are any other circumstances relating to Covid-19, not included in the form, which may need to be disclosed to facilitate their safe return to the workplace
- complete Covid-19 Induction Training and any other training required prior to their return to school
- be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices
- wear appropriate PPE as directed by public health advice

- keep informed of the updated advice of the public health authorities and comply with same.

11. Covid related absence management

Any Covid-19 related absence of a staff member will be managed in line the procedures detailed in Circular 0024/2020.

12. Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme

The Board of Management aims to protect and support the health and wellbeing of all staff at all times & is mindful that the support and promotion of staff health and wellbeing is particularly important in the current context, where the Covid-19 pandemic has caused considerable challenges for, and disruption to, people's personal, family and social lives as well as their work arrangements.

The Board of Management aims to foster a culture and work environment that supports healthy behaviour & staff wellbeing. It shall continue to make health and wellbeing tools and guidance available to staff, as well as organising suitable support programmes, initiatives and events. These are challenging times for everyone. Should a staff member experience any stress or anxiety in respect of work or work arrangements, he/she should feel free to speak to the Principal.

Pupil Wellbeing.

Balla NS will focus on wellbeing as a foundation for learning. Various activities will be used in class to promote pupil wellbeing. We will endeavour to avail of outdoor activities and opportunities in particular to negate the loss of usual activities and annual competitions.

Additional Supports for pupils are:

- National Educational Support Service (NEPS): Our NEPS Psychologist Caitriona Martyn
- Social story resources are available at: <https://ncse.ie/supporting-transition-from-home-back-to-school>
- Departments of Education and Skills: Please see: <https://www.education.ie/covid19/wellbeing/>

13. Special Education Teaching (S.E.T) for Pupils with Additional Needs

SET teachers will support mainstream teachers in providing the necessary supports for any pupils who may experience anxiety on returning to school.

S.E.T. is assigned with the duty of co-ordinating 'Special Education Teaching' within our school. All SET teachers are timetabled to work between a certain cohort of classes i.e. Junior/Middle

/Senior. All S.E.T teachers will diligently sanitise their hands before and after entering a room. Visors will be worn or masks if 2 metres cannot be adhered to.

Continuum of Support: Our school will utilise the usual school support structure – the Continuum of Support. This support structure allows schools to provide support for all pupils, using prevention and early intervention to support wellbeing and transition back to school. The Continuum of Support framework also recognises that some pupils - those groups who are at risk or who have emerging needs - will require more targeted support, while others who have complex and enduring needs will require an individualised approach to support, taking a developmental perspective, and adapted to the individual needs of the student. Pupils with the greatest needs within our school will receive SET teaching support. **Pupils who are ‘very high risk’:** Balla N.S. is conscious that there may be some pupils for whom return to school may not be appropriate because the relevant public health guidelines indicate they are at “very high risk”. Appropriate educational support for these pupils to engage adequately with learning will be co-ordinated by relevant SET teacher in conjunction with the relevant mainstream teacher.

Well-being: Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) will require particular support at the time of transition back to school. As they return to school, the quality of the social and emotional aspects of our curriculum will be critical to their successful re-engagement in school life and their learning across the curriculum. Particular attention will need to be given to supporting their wellbeing, reducing potential anxiety and planning learning experiences that take account of the effect of the school closure period on their progress and their engagement in learning. Special education teachers and S.N.A.s will be assigned to pupils with SEN or pupils who experience anxiety when school re-opens.

Physical Distancing: For pupils with special educational needs (SEN), maintaining physical distancing in many instances will not be practical or reasonable to implement. Parents/guardians are being requested to have a heightened awareness of signs, symptoms or changes in baseline, which might suggest illness/COVID-19 infection. Where flu-like symptoms are present, pupils should not attend school. Similarly, staff should be aware of their responsibility not to attend for work, if they develop signs or symptoms of respiratory illness.

Hand Hygiene: Children who are unable to wash their hands by themselves will be assisted to wash their hands using either soap and water or a hand sanitiser, if their hands are visibly clean.

Group Withdrawal: *The size of the group will depend on the size of the S.E.T ‘s room to allow for 1m social distancing between pupils.*

Equipment: S.E.T. teachers to supply equipment, such as pencils, crayons, whiteboard markers, pritt stick etc., and these individual items will be cleaned and sanitised after use. Some children may have care needs (physical or behavioural) which require the use of aids and appliance and/ or medical equipment for example toileting aids, moving and handling equipment, respiratory equipment.

Cleaning of Equipment:

- Equipment used to deliver care will be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Care equipment will be cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Cleaning is generally achieved using a general-purpose detergent and warm water.

- Equipment that is used for different children must be cleaned and, if required, disinfected immediately after use and before use by another child e.g. toileting aids.
- If equipment is soiled with body fluids,
- First clean thoroughly with detergent and water
- Then disinfect by wiping with a freshly prepared solution of disinfectant
- Rinse with water and dry.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Staff who provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment will apply Standard Precautions, as per usual practice

- Members of staff, who cannot maintain a 2m distance from pupils or from other staff, are required to wear a face covering. Choice of face covering (mask and/or visor) can be a personal decision.

SNAs will be required to wear both a facemask and a visor when providing personal care to pupils with additional needs.

Staff member must clean visor regularly during the day and especially at end of day.

According to Department advice, primary school children will not be required to wear face coverings under any circumstances except in the case of a child displaying Covid 19 symptoms.

Special Needs Assistants: Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) can move between pods/bubbles when their post is shared between two pupils in two different classes. SNAs must wear a visor and take personal responsibility for washing and sanitising hands between pods and between bubbles.

14. Curriculum

Returning to school Curriculum guidance for primary school leaders and teachers is outlined in this link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a0bff-reopening-our-primary-and-special-schools/#supporting-the-wellbeing-of-school-communities-as-schools-reopen-guidance-for-schools>

Our mainstream and SET teachers will adapt their lesson planning and pedagogy to cater for their pupils' learning needs.

Teachers will be giving greater time and attention to curricular areas such as:

- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE):
- Physical Education (PE)
- Language/Literacy:
- Mathematics:

- Mandatory aspects of SPHE such as Stay Safe and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) shall be taught early in the term. **Post Holder in Charge:** Mrs. Corcoran
- Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE)
- Visual Arts

15. Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities.

- Swimming Classes: Postponed
- Singing/Concerts/Performances: Postponed
- School Assemblies: Postponed

16. Specific Arrangements

- School Supplies: Parents to supply full sets of school supplies and ensure child leaves them at school each day so that they are not borrowing pens/ colours. If a staff member has to lend a school item to a child, the staff member will wipe it with disinfectant wipes before and after.
- 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. Children should bring their lunch in a plastic container /box (which must be washed daily). Photocopying: Sterilised wipes to be left at photocopiers – user to wipe copier after use.
- Use of Halla: P.E. timetable will be completed as normal with time allowed between classes for ventilation of the hall. P.E classes will take place outside (weather permitting).
- Homework: Homework will not be assigned in early September and is at the teacher's discretion. All copies to have plastic coverings.
- School books: all school books to have plastic coverings.
- Sending pupils between classrooms on messages/jobs: no longer permitted.
- Staff: Daily, please check Aladdin and Whatsapp.
- Staff & pupil attendance: Aladdin will be used for recording daily staff & pupil attendance/absences.
- Financial contributions/ payments: online facility available
- Ventilation: Classroom doors, where/when practical, to be left open to minimise touching of common areas. It is also highly recommended that classroom windows be open as often as possible to increase airflow.

- Hand washing and hand hygiene: Please access: <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>
- On first day of return to school, each teacher will remind pupils about the correct techniques for the various school routines and procedures, as outlined in this document, for example:
 - Arrival at school
 - School departures
 - Procedure when feeling sick
 - Hand washing
 - Hand sanitising technique
 - Respiratory Hygiene
 - Use of Pods
 - Use of Bubbles
 - Routine for Arriving at school, Break Times, Departure times
 - Non sharing of personal items,
 - Tidiness and keeping work surface areas clean
 - Bathroom etiquette
 - Eating etiquette etc.
- Training/In-service: All staff must complete the DES online training before returning to work.