



St Kilian's Community School

COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Post Primary Schools

The Response Plan, issued by the DES on 27/07/2020, provides a template for the reopening of schools.

At the Board of Management Meeting of August 24th 2020, the DES's Response Plan was ratified as school policy.

APPENDIX 1: COVID-19 SCHOOL POLICY (St. Kilian's Community School)

The following measures and provisions, particular to the school, were approved:

Personnel & School Visitors

- Return To Work protocols will be in place for all staff members returning for the new school year, including a health declaration.
- Staff members who may be Very High Risk will be assessed by Medmark in relation to same.
- Teaching and SNA staff will return to school for two days of planning and training ahead of the students' return on August 31st.
- Two Lead Worker Representatives (LWRs) will be elected by staff to liaise with management about the implementation of arrangements around the reopening of the school and the ongoing safe running of the school.
- The School will no longer receive visitors into the building, without a prior appointment. Visitors must observe all Covid-related protocols, including contact tracing.
- The contact tracing system that was introduced earlier in the year is fit for purpose and will continue to apply.

PPE & Signage

- Procurement arrangements around PPE and cleaning products are being adhered to.
- Classrooms will be supplied with sanitising wipes, to be used after each change of chair/table/desk user. Pedal bins will be supplied.

- Face coverings will be mandatory for all staff and students. A supply of masks, visors, gloves and aprons is in place.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers and drip-trays have been installed in every classroom and at other key points around the school (over seventy, in total).
- The Care Room and Room 25 are designated as isolation rooms.
- An enhanced cleaning regime will be put in place. The contract cleaners will have a person on site during the school day.
- Extensive signage is in place to support the measures that have been put in place to ensure the safety of the school community.

Students

- Students will return to school, one year group at a time, and will receive training around the new school protocols and arrangements.
- Particular attention will be paid to the incoming First Year cohort, who have not been able to avail of the usual induction arrangements.
- Student wellbeing is a priority. The school is conscious of the challenges of re-integrating students after six months away from school. Many students are struggling with their mental health and initiatives will be put in place to support this.

Matters relating to the School Building

- Classrooms have been laid out to allow for recommended social distancing measures to apply. Furniture and classroom materials are at a minimum.
- Room 33 has been returned to use as a classroom.
- The Canteen has been fitted with a projector and screen to allow for classes to be held there.
- An area of the Canteen has been converted into a study/work area for teachers.
- The Staff Room has been refurbished. A new layout and revised protocols around its use are in place.
- Improved and increased locker space has been ordered for teaching staff, as they no longer have base classrooms.
- A hand-washing station has been installed in the Staff Room.
- An application to provide mechanical ventilation in a number of classrooms is being explored.
- The conversion of the Sports Hall mezzanine into a classroom is also being examined.
- The Sports Hall is being used for storage of furniture, books and teaching materials.

School Organisation

- A one-way system is in place for student movement around the school.
- The school day has been redesigned, with assemblies no longer taking place and staggered morning and lunch breaks for Senior and Junior students. Staff members will also have staggered breaks, as a consequence.
- Teachers are no longer classroom-based, apart from specialist rooms.
- Students will stay in their base rooms as much as possible, including for their morning break. They will be allowed to leave the school at lunch time.
- Access to toilet areas will be more closely managed and monitored. Use of each toilet block will be restricted to two persons at any time.
- The number of lockers has been reduced, to ensure social distancing.
- Cloakrooms will be closed.
- PE will take place outdoors only, weather permitting.
- Extra-curricular activities may only go ahead, if all public health advice can be adhered to.
- The Canteen area will be used as an overflow area for students who cannot be accommodated due to smaller classroom capacities. Students will use this space on a rotated system, with schoolwork provided and will be supervised at all times.

Technology

- *The challenges around the use of technology require further work. The sharing of keyboards is an issue; keyboard covers have been ordered but may not be a satisfactory solution.*
- The promotion of the use of Office 365 as a teaching, learning and communication tool will be a priority for the new school year. In the event of there being a further school closure, better engagement is required.
- The refurbishment of Room 34 as a computer room, and base for Junior Cycle Graphics, is progressing well. This room will be a good addition to the school's IT facilities at this time.

School Facilities, Resources & Activities

- The Canteen and Breakfast Club cannot safely operate under the current circumstances.
- An application for the School Meals Programme has been made. It has been indicated that the application will be successful. Students will be provided with a breakfast and lunch bag free of charge.
- It is hoped that evening Supervised Study can be held, with all Covid-related protocols applying.
- The Book Rental Scheme has, with safety protocols in place, run as normal.

Parents/Guardians

- Parents/Guardians will continue to be informed of developments through emails/newsletters.
- At this time, parent-teacher meetings are not possible.
- Online meetings will be held, as necessary, in place of scheduled information meetings.