



# **Kirkinriola Primary School**

## **Restart Plan 2020/2021**

### **'New School Day'**

#### **School Vision Statement**

'Where learning is an adventure and everyone can shine.

Our growing school with a healthy heart.'

## Objectives:

Our main objectives in developing this plan are:

- to allow for a smooth transition back to school for all pupils
- to ensuring that the health and well-being of the pupils and staff remains paramount.

This document follows the publication of "NI Re-opening Schools Guidance, New School Day" (19 June 2020) and subsequent updated document (13 August 2020) by the Department of Education (DE) and as a result of consultation with staff and Governors.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic schools have had to significantly alter our daily operations and create a 'New Normal'.

The measures contained within this document are designed to promote the health and well-being of all our stakeholders; pupils, staff, parents and members of our wider school community.

These practical measures have been designed to enable face-to-face teaching time for all pupils within a safe environment; mindful of the scientific guidance, DE guidance and Public Health advice.

Everyone at Kirkinriola PS is committed to getting our children back to school, working and learning in a supportive and caring environment. While we recognise there may be worries and apprehension around a return to school, we hope these measures will provide some reassurance to parents and families.

During the initial period of time when children are returning to school, our focus will be primarily on the health and safety of the children. It will be necessary to acknowledge what has happened since March 2020 and the legacy that lockdown and closure of schools will have had.

A circular (2020/06; Curriculum Planning), issued by the Department of Education (DE) also noted that, in the new school year, schools can use their knowledge and skills to adapt their curricular plans to suit the context of their schools and best meet the needs of the children. "The DE would emphasise however, the key importance after many months away from the school environment of ensuring children have good emotional health and wellbeing, are engaged and motivated to learn and have the tools and skills they require for learning." (DE, Circular 2020/06)

## New School Day

### Dates of Phased Return:



School will re-open for P7 pupils on Monday 24th August @9am (arrival from 8:55am during this week for P7 only). There will be no supervision before school. All P7 pupils should bring a packed lunch to school during this first week.

Short Induction sessions (9.30am-11am) will also take place during week by 24th August for Primary 1 pupils. This class has been split into two groups and P1 pupils should only attend their session on either Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 or Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

P2-P6 pupils will return to school on Tuesday 1st September, 2020.

The publication of new guidance from DE (13/8/20), indicates that while social distancing between adults will remain in place at 2m, the "stringent application of social distancing requirements between pupils will be relaxed from 17th August". Social distancing between adults and children will remain at 2m; as far as it is practicable.

We will therefore implement protective bubbles as the key mitigating action where possible and this will enable all children at Kirkinriola Primary School to return to face-to-face teaching in August/ September 2020.

### Staggered arrival and finish times:

In order to avoid congestion near the school gates, we will be initiating staggered start times to the school day. Start times have been arranged to allow families to arrive together. If you are running late, please do not arrive until 9.15am to avoid these times.

#### Arrival Times

Bubble	Arrival Time
P1	8.55am
P2	8.45am
P3/4	8.35am
P5-7	9.05am

#### Finish Times

Bubble	Home Time
P1	12.15pm
P2	2.00pm
P3/4	2.15pm
P5-7	2.30pm

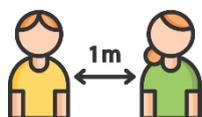
*Please note that car-sharing with other households should be avoided to and from school*

An area in the car park will be marked out for KEY drop off and a pathway to prevent mixing of pupils will be marked out for P2 and P5-7 access to the rear door. P1 and P3/4 children will enter school via the front door. Pupils will be temperature checked before entering the building and each of these entrances have sanitising stations provided.

## Breakfast Club and After School Club

Unfortunately, the school will be unable to provide supervision for pupils before school and between 2-3pm, as we work to maintain the class protective bubbles.

## Social Distancing in School



While in school, children will remain in their class protective bubbles; ensuring consistent group membership to adequately manage the risk of transmission. It is recognised by the DE that “passing in the corridors and short periods of contact does not present a significant risk to staff or pupils”.

Classrooms have been reconfigured in rows to allow for face-to-face teaching. Once established, these class protective bubbles will cover all aspects of the school day, including play times and mealtimes. Specific periods of playtime outside have been timetabled to allow protective bubbles to be maintained. In this way we will also be able to ensure that accurate records of group movement can be kept. At this time all adults are required to adhere to 2m social distancing with other adults and children alike.

## Hygiene



As noted in the guidance, “regular and thorough handwashing and attendance to hygiene is recommended”. To this end, a regular hygiene routine will be established in school.

Pupils will be directed to wash their hands on arrival, before eating their snack, prior to lunchtime, on return from any outdoor play/PE activity and after using the toilet as usual. Where necessary, younger children will be supervised when washing their hands.

We have secured funding for additional hand washing facilities to be installed into the Primary 1-4 toilets which will make these routines easier and less time consuming.

“**CATCH IT, KILL IT, BIN IT**” will continue to be the message promoted, to encourage practice of good respiratory hygiene. Tissues will be available on all children's desks to help them manage sneezes or coughs. We will also encourage children to avoid touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth and will show them how to cough into their elbow if they don't have a tissue.

Please help us by promoting these hygiene messages at home.

## Pupil Attendance



Current DE and PHA guidance provides advice on school attendance for those children who may have health conditions, or live with those who have health conditions. Current guidance on these categories is published on NI Direct and by the PHA.

If a child is medically advised not to attend school from the start of the new term, parents should speak with the Principal.

**It should be emphasised that children who exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school.**

The Department of Health has implemented a contact tracing programme called Test, Trace and Protect which we are all expected to follow the requirements of.

Should a pupil become unwell while at school, exhibiting symptoms (continuous cough, high temperature, a change in sense of taste or smell) a clear procedure has been outlined for all schools to follow; which will include supervising the child in isolation and contacting the parent immediately to collect from school. It is therefore essential that each parent ensures that the contact details provided for your child are correct and up-to-date. Parents should come to the main entrance to collect their child.

**If your child is unwell or is running late you should inform the school in the usual way, by calling the school office between 9.30-11am.** This will allow the school to take appropriate measures and follow the correct protocols

In the event where it was necessary to close the whole school; due to a local cluster or following DE, EA or PHA guidance; we will contact parents via the school NI App or via Seesaw.

## School Uniform



School Uniform From DE Guidance (June 2020): "While Coronavirus can land on fabrics and remain for some time, schools are not a high risk environment and while all children should be encouraged to wear clean uniform or fresh clothes each day, this is not essential." In following this guidance, we would encourage you to clean uniform daily if possible.

## Classrooms



Teachers have worked extremely hard to ensure classrooms are prepared to the highest standards for return of our pupils. We have also removed any unnecessary furniture, resources and materials from the rooms.

As explained in the pencil case letter from June 2020, we would be grateful if each child has their own set of stationary stored in a wipe clean pencil case. This will hopefully prevent the sharing of resources between pupils and we are most grateful for your support with this.

We would ask that pupils do not bring any other items to school. This includes school bags and toys.

Where resources have to be shared by pupils, we will be rotating them and maintaining a 72 hour isolation period between uses.

## Outdoor Play Equipment



It is generally accepted that the outdoor environment can provide a rich learning experience for pupils and, by being outside transmission of the virus can be reduced. Therefore we plan to use the outdoor environment for learning whenever possible.

Given that our play frame has multiple touch points, we will implement a timetable across the week. Appropriate hygiene (washing hands before and after use) and cleaning measures will be taken between groups using the equipment.

Any smaller play equipment used outdoors will also be allocated to bubbles on a timetable and be subject to the same 72 hour isolation periods between uses.

## Lunches

In order to maintain protective bubbles, all classes will have their packed lunch in their classroom.



School meals will be available from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. An email will be sent out shortly to confirm ordering and payment details through our cashless system, Parent Pay. Pupils entitled to free school meals will also book these through this system.

Please send snacks and packed lunches to school in a large plastic/ Tupperware lunchbox that can be easily washed on a daily basis. These will be stored on lunch box trolleys in the corridor. **Please ensure that all lunch boxes/ snack pots are labelled.**

## Drinks Bottles

Drinks bottles should also be wipeable. Please note, due to hygiene restrictions, we are unable to refill drinks bottles in school so please send adequate drinks for the day. A separate drinks bottle of water only may be sent for your child to use in class. Bottles appropriate for classroom use were gifted to all pupils at the end of last term. **Please ensure all drinks bottles are labelled.**

## Money



From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 we will be using ParentPay. All monies collected by school should be paid through this online system. This will eliminate the risks of transmitting the virus on coins or notes.

## PPE/ Face Coverings



PPE/ Face Coverings DE guidance notes that the "PHA has published guidance to support safe working in educational settings in NI." Specifically, we are directed that PPE should not be worn by children and is needed only in a very small number of cases.

These are:

- Working with children, young people and pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE, due to their intimate care needs
- Giving children medication / first aid.

The updated guidance highlights the following in relation to face masks/ coverings: "It is strongly recommended that:

- all pupils, regardless of age, wear a face covering on buses and taxis for the journey to school; where it is appropriate and they can use them as directed.
- Face coverings must be worn in the staff room and during adult-adult meetings lasting more than 15 minutes.
- All adults visiting the school site must wear a face covering.
- Staff and pupils may wish to use face coverings during the school day and this is acceptable.

## Cleaning



Classrooms will have the regular cleaning frequency (daily, after school hours) and new clear guidelines, taking into consideration Covid-19, implemented.

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned through the day with appropriate products. Surfaces such as desks, door handles, etc. will be cleaned at intervals through the day. Staff and pupils will assist with the cleaning routines by ensuring that desks and the classroom environment are kept free of clutter.

Over the summer a deep clean was completed, in line with the EA guidelines. Additionally, carpets were also deep cleaned and all curtains were dry cleaned.

Should circumstances arise where a deep clean is required, this will be performed in line with PHA advice and EA guidance.

## Blended, Remote / Home Learning



At this time, we are planning for a full school return in late August/ start of September. If achieved, it will not be necessary to provide remote learning online. In the event where smaller classes were taking place, a blended approach to teaching would have been necessary. Should guidance change or local lockdown occur, then we would revert to remote learning online as before.

We will continue to use Seesaw, Education City and Bug Club platforms to facilitate home learning. Any home learning sent as hard copy should be sent as a pack and will not require you to return it. We would ask you to encourage your child to engage with any home learning teachers set.

In the event that children are absent from school due to shielding or where they, or a member of the household, are exhibiting symptoms and are required to self-isolate, we will do our best to support these children via remote learning online.

If any parent has concerns about aspects of online learning, specifically IT provision, we would encourage you to make contact with the school as soon as possible.

## **Policy Revisions**

A small number of policies within school will be reviewed to ensure that they cover COVID-19 related incidents.

Specifically, the school's Positive Behaviour Policy will make provision for the school to be able to sanction pupils, who wilfully, refuse to adhere to the arrangements put in place in relation to social distancing and where a pupil would deliberately cough or spit at other pupils or staff, putting them at risk.

Where revisions are made to a school policy, parents will receive guidance to this end and the updated policy will be placed on the school website for parents to download.

We have also undertaken the appropriate risk assessments, in line with guidance from the Education Authority and these will be reviewed at regular intervals.

***With thanks to:***

***All staff for their commitment to developing this plan in the best interests of our pupils and to Mrs J. McAuley, Braidside I.P.S. for support in putting the document together.***