

# Our Lady of Fatima



## Covid-19 Plan for Reopening School 2020

This document attempts to deal with the reopening of Our Lady of Fatima School for the year 2020/2021 and cover matters which will affect the day to day running of the school.

The Dept of Education may give further instruction depending on the situation within County Wexford of Covid-19 outbreaks.

### **In order for us to reopen successfully and remain open we all need:**

- A balanced approach
- Apply common sense
- Create awareness
- Do everything practical to avoid introduction of Covid-19 into school
- Stay at home if unwell
- Quarantine for two weeks if returning from Non-Green List countries
- Wash uniform regularly to ensure it is scrupulously clean
- Keep doing the key measures to keep us all safe

We need to be aware that there is a possibility of closure of a complete or restricted nature and plan for this but we can all play our part to avoid this happening and must do so.

**THOSE NOT RETURNING TO SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY:**

Parents/Guardians of more medically vulnerable students should inform the school in writing that they have taken the decision, under medical advice, not to send their son/daughter back to school for the new term.

No pressure will be put on any child to return, however the school needs written confirmation of this to keep on file should it be requested by the Attendance Section of the Dept of Education.

## **TRANSPORT:**

Transport is organised through the Dept of Education by Bus Eireann and each Operator will set out their own rules and regulations which must be complied with when travelling,

**Before boarding Parents/Guardians must speak to Escort to confirm that their son/daughter is showing no signs or symptoms of Covid-19 and is 100% fit and well. This will be noted by the Escort and kept on file.**

In order to remain open we cannot afford to have any child in school who is even a little under the weather. We can all play our part by following these guidelines.

**All passengers must sanitise hands before boarding and wear face coverings for the whole journey.**

Our mini buses will not be operating for the present time, though this situation may change.

## **ARRIVALS:**

Hand washing station outside at Senior 2 classroom wall must be used by all. No one will be admitted without compliance.

No unnecessary entry to school...no parents, guardians, social workers, other visitors without prior appointment.

Arrangements to meet students to be done outside of school.

Parents can arrange to speak to staff via phone or other platform outside of class time or by appointment.

Any visitor who does need to enter school for appointment **must** fill out the Contact Tracing Visitors Log.

There will be no gatherings in front hall or lobby before school or at collection times/home times.

Parents, guardians, escorts etc must wait **OUTSIDE** in a socially distanced fashion.

## **CLASSROOM:**

Every classroom will be considered a "bubble" and those in it should try to restrict interaction with any other bubbles.

Each classroom will be set up bearing social distancing protocols in mind.

Teacher's desk will be placed 2m from students and all classroom desks will be 1m from others.

All students from M1 will need to bring masks to school.

Where masks are in use instruction will be given on correct use and must be adhered to.

Each classroom will have own rules in place.

All staff will reiterate/emphasise to their students the huge importance of hygiene...

- hand washing: paper towel dispensers have been installed
- make hand washing a routine part of the classroom
- for those with skin issues, talk to parents
- hand sanitiser where no sink is available
- cough etiquette
- social distancing

Uniform, coats and jackets should be laundered regularly

Students have own items (books, pen, pencil, colours, scissors, glue, IT device, toys etc) in a tray for their use **only** on own desk and sharing will be discouraged.

Items which need to be shared should be strictly limited and attempts should be made to avoid sending and receiving items from home.

**NO SCHOOLBAGS.....** if bringing lunch to school it should be put into a clean plastic or rewashable bag which needs to be kept scrupulously clean.

**Lunch boxes must be washed daily.**

No soft toys, furnishings.

Personalised squiggies, chewies, anxiety easers etc must be cleaned regularly.

Unfortunately we will need to plan for possible short term closure due to localised breakouts.

For this reason distance learning will have to be planned and put in place to be activated at short notice.

Parents/Guardians are asked to work with us in establishing this.

**BREAKFAST:**

Served in own class by staff there.

Each classroom keeps marked bowls, spoons, (so that those who take breakfast have own utensils) and ONE box cereal.

These are washed and stored in classroom.

**BREAK TIMES / LUNCH:**

There will be 3 breaks of 15 minutes: Junior (10.30-10.45)

Middle (10.50-11.05)

Senior (11.10-11.25)

Students will eat in the classroom either before or after these times.

3 lunches of 20 minutes: Junior (12.15-12.35)

Middle (12.40-1.00)

Senior (1.05-1.25)

Students will eat in the classroom either before or after these times.

Yard to be divided into 4 distinct areas.

Each class must remain inside their area.

When bell rings each class lines up in their area in a socially distanced manner,

**THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE USED/IN USE:**

Toothbrushes

Multi-Sensory Room

Swimming

Drama

Other activities

Mini bus

Trips to..... library, supermarket etc (walks can be taken if social distancing is possible)

## PROTOCOL WHEN DEALING WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE:

NO ONE SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL IF UNWELL OR DISPLAYING ANY OF THE SIGNS OF COVID19.

- Anyone who becomes unwell with the following symptoms must be sent home and advised to follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection:
  - High temperature
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
  - Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste
  
- **It is VITAL that all parents/Guardians have contact telephone numbers where someone can be contacted IMMEDIATELY to organise collection and that if you do not have transport yourself that you have someone who can collect your son/daughter. An unwell child CANNOT be left in school.**
  
- A student awaiting collection will be masked and moved, immediately, in a socially distanced fashion, to Shower Room where they can be isolated. Parents/Guardians must be contacted immediately and make arrangements to have the student collected as soon as is possible.
  
- Should there be two unwell persons, the Personal Care area will then be used. This student must be at least 2 metres away from other people. A window should be opened for ventilation.
  
- PPE should be worn by staff caring for the student while they await collection and extreme caution should be exercised if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
  
- Where there is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in school confidentiality must be maintained at all times and the instructions of HSE Public Health must be followed, that is:

- Inform any staff/parents or students who come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process.
- Contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of Covid-19 is made
- Advise on the appropriate action, on a case-by-case basis, that should be taken vis-à-vis the operation of the school.