

# Our Lady of Fatima



## *Covid-19 Response Plan September 2021*

Informant

*This document attempts to deal with the reopening of Our Lady of Fatima School for the year 2021/2022 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*

*If abroad, when you arrive back to Ireland please refer to Government guidelines and advice:*

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/#travelling-with-children>

*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.*

***FOR 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.

It is important to contact us at your earliest convenience, as the school needs written confirmation of this to keep on file should it be requested by the Attendance Section of the Department 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, The understanding is that all passengers must sanitise hands before boarding and **where possible** wear face coverings for the whole journey.

Our mini buses will be operating in a limited capacity and for limited activities for the present time. Same applies as above.

### **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, 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.  
Staff email addresses available on school website.

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.

In circumstances where social distancing is not possible with older students, masks may be worn.

It is recommended and required that all students from M1 to S4 will should wear masks on school transport and throughout the school day.

Mask breaks will be timetabled.

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

Masks must only be removed when eating or outside having a mask break.

All staff must adhere to and reiterate/emphasise into their students the huge importance of everyone's hygiene.

- hand washing: paper towel dispensers have been installed

- make hand washing a routine part of the classroom
- for those with skin issues: please discuss with class teacher
- hand sanitiser where no sink is available
- cough etiquette
- social distancing

Frequent cleaning of surfaces in classrooms.... all will have own supplies of spray (used with paper and binned) gloves.

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.

No soft toys, furnishings.

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

#### **Physical Distancing:**

- Maintaining **physical distancing** in the school environment is a key infection prevention control and must be adhered to. Staff should maintain a minimum of 1m distance and where **possible** 2m.

#### **Ventilation:**

- All classrooms must be well ventilated, windows opened etc.
- Co2 Monitor have been issued to all schools. These monitors can provide a useful general indication that areas/ rooms may not be adequately ventilated and can enable occupants to become familiar with the impact of activities, outdoor weather and window openings on levels of good ventilation within a room.

We may still 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.

#### **BREAKTIMES / 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.*

*School break or lunch will be delivered to classroom.*

*Food will be prepared and distributed by classroom staff.*

*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, NOT at front door.*

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

*Toothbrushes*

*Swimming*

*Shower facilities*

### ***CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES:***

*Drama (outside)*

*Horse-Riding (outside)*

*Gymnastics (outside)*

*Mini bus (reduced capacity – 50%)*

*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: In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms of coronavirus (which includes the DELTA variant).*

*Common symptoms of coronavirus include:*

- a 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 or change in 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*

- *Fatigue*
- *Aches and Pains*

*Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:*

- *sore throat*
- *headaches*
- *runny or stuffy noses*
- *feeling sick or vomiting*
- *diarrhoea*

*It is VITAL that all parents/guardians have contact telephone numbers where someone can be contacted IMMEDIATELY to organise collection and if you do not have transport yourself that you have someone who can collect your son/daughter. An unwell child CAN(NOT) be left in school.*

- *A student awaiting collection should 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 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.*