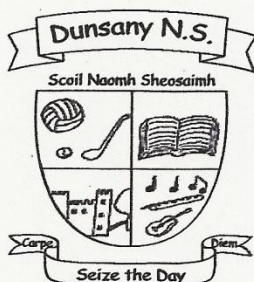


Scoil Naomh Sheosaimh,  
Dún Samhnaí,  
Co. na Mí.

Telephone: 046 9025058  
Roll Number: 16790V



St. Joseph's N.S.,  
Dunsany,  
Co. Meath.

Email: dunsanyns@gmail.com  
Web: www.dunsanyns.com

Covid 19 Policy Statement  
Dunsany National School

Dunsany 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 B.o.M. 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 lead 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 D.E.S.
- keep a contact tracing log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff engage with the induction/familiarisation briefing provided by the D.E.S.
- 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 D.E.S./ advice

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

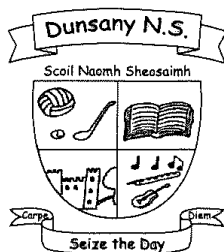
This can be done through the Lead worker Representatives, who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed:

*Mary Hardill*  
*Catherine Bockett*

Date:

*13<sup>th</sup> August 2020*  
*13 August 2020*



## Attachment to Covid 19 Statement

(Where direct speech is used, statements have been taken directly from "Covid 19 Response Plan for the safe & sustainable reopening of Primary & Special Schools", Dept. of Ed. & Skills, 27 July 2020.

D.E.S. = Department of Education & Skills)

### RETURNING TO SCHOOL: :

- **THURSDAY 27 AUGUST: Junior Infants & Senior Infants ONLY:** School starts for these two classes on Thursday 27 August 2020. Junior Infant Day will run to 12.00 noon every day up until Monday 13 September, as usual. Senior Infant day ends at 1.40pm as usual.
- **FRIDAY 28 AUGUST: Junior & Senior Infants and First & Second Classes only:** School as normal for all these four classes on Friday 28 August 2020.
- **MONDAY 31 AUGUST: Third & Fourth & Fifth & Sixth Classes only return to school. *On Monday 31st all classes from Junior Infants - 2nd class inclusive will not attend school.***
- **TUESDAY 1 SEPT. onwards:** *All classes* return to school as normal.

These changes are to allow teachers and children to set up the necessary steps with children and within 'classpods' as per Dept. Guidelines.

### BOOKS/COPIES/STATIONERY:

- **All** books and copies should be covered in plastic covering this year in order that they may be wiped down. All books distributed under the Book Rental Scheme will need to be covered immediately when you receive them, if not already covered.
- Children will need to have their own supply of pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, colours etc... as per booklist. Sharing these will not be allowed this year. Each child should have a glue stick. Children from 3rd class+ will be required to have a pair of scissors suitable for art (not hairdressing!)

### UNIFORMS/SCHOOL TRACKSUIT:

There are no guidelines in the Department's documents in relation to the washing of uniforms on a daily basis. Likewise, there is nothing in the WHO's guidelines which would suggest this is necessary. However we appreciate that many parents may indeed prefer to wash their child's clothes daily. In the event of doing so, we respectfully suggest that parents alternate from set uniform to school tracksuit each day. Or if they wish to purchase additional clothes for school for your child, we ask that they stick to a **navy palette** please (ie. any unmarked navy tracksuit top & bottoms). Children should not come to school in denims or sports jerseys.

### ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL:

All children will enter the school grounds at the back gate (next to the graveyard). The yard will be divided into three zones, with an additional zone for 5th & 6th class outside the gate (details in letter to 5th & 6th class parents). Teachers will be on hand each morning in the yard to receive the children. Children will enter their own classroom by their own door. In accordance with guidelines, no parent will be allowed to enter the school yard. Parents are asked to drop their child as close to the gate as possible, return to their car as quickly as possible, not to congregate with other parents and to leave the premises promptly.

Times for reception 8.40am (gate will be opened then) - 9.10am. This extended time is to allow for required handwashing by all upon arrival. Over the first few days, you will work out which slot in that half hour suits you and your child(ren). It is envisaged that there will be a staggering of arrivals to avoid all pupils entering together at the earliest or the latest time. Classes will begin promptly at 9.15am.

#### LEAVING SCHOOL:

Dismissal times will be as usual for Infants 1.40pm and between 2.40pm - 3.00pm for all other classes, with 1st & 2nd being dismissed first, then 3rd & 4th, etc...

#### HAND-WASHING/SANITISATION:

Each child and staff member will be required to wash their hands...

- a. on arrival at school
- b. before eating or drinking
- c. after using the toilet
- d. after playing outdoors
- e. when their hands are physically dirty
- f. when they cough or sneeze

Each classroom has three sinks. Teachers will have responsibility for ensuring these hand washing sessions are managed so as to avoid congregation of children at the sinks.

Each classroom will be fitted with a hand sanitising station at the door. There is no need for children to bring their own sanitisers. (From the Guidelines: "Children should not have independent use of containers of alcohol gel".) Additional sanitising stations will be positioned in other parts of the school too.

#### PHYSICAL DISTANCING & THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS:

Guidelines ask us to create a physical distance of a minimum of 1m between all of us (3rd class upwards).

Teachers are requested to maintain a physical distance of 1m from all children when possible. We are also minded that "the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue". "It is also recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from pupils."

With these considerations in mind, the staff will wear clear face shields. These should allow for communication and teaching not to be too adversely affected. In the event that we have to attend closely to a child eg. administer first aid, we will wear a face mask also.

Children do not need to wear a face covering (From the Guidelines: "Cloth coverings are not suitable for children under the age of 13.").

"It is not possible to maintain physical distancing when pupils in primary school play together outdoors, but insofar as practical it is helpful to keep to consistent groups." To this end, lunch times have been changed and designated areas and equipment assigned to each class group. The yard will be broken into two halves for each class 'pod'. We hope on one day per week/every 10 days in clement weather to use the local GAA pitch/training pitch to facilitate a whole school lunch time 'get together'. The pitch would be divided into four quadrants and pupils would remain in their pods.

*Little Break:* Jun. Inf. - 2nd class incl. : 10.40am-10.50am + additional hand-washing time. 3rd -6th class incl.: 11.00-11.10am + additional hand-washing time

*Big Break:* Jun. Inf. - 2nd class incl.: 12.15pm-12.45pm + h/washing 3rd - 6th class incl.: 1.00-1.30 + h/washing

#### CLEANING:

The school will be thoroughly cleaned in line with guidelines before opening and cleaned daily in line with guidelines, thereafter.

### VISITORS & CONTACT TRACING LOG:

Parents will not be allowed in the building or the school grounds. All visits to the school must be by prior arrangement and guidelines ask that they be "restricted to essential purposes". When attending for a scheduled appointment, parents and teachers will be requested to adhere to physical distances and masks must be worn. (As per usual, all Individual Educational Profile meetings with class teacher and Learning Support teacher will occur from 1 October onwards. Parents will be notified near the time.)

All visitors to the school including parents will be required to fill out a Contact Tracing Log and will be received at a specific contact point.

Visits to deliver lunches, etc... will no longer be permitted. Movement within the body of the school, from class to class, etc... will be restricted and so it will be very important to ensure that your child always has plenty to drink with him/her. (Our drinking water supply is in the staffroom).

### CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT INTRODUCTION OF COVID 19:

"If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread." To this end we ask you **not** to send your child to school if he/she displays any of these symptoms:

- high temperature
- cough
- shortness of breath/breathing difficulties
- loss of smell, of taste, or distortion of taste.

Good respiratory hygiene will be practised with the children. Tissues will be disposed of in a lidded bin.

### PROCEDURE FOR RETURNING TO WORK:

Each member of staff will in line with D.E.S. Guidelines complete and return the Return to Work form three days prior to returning to work.

### INDUCTION TRAINING:

Each member of staff will undergo Induction Training provided by D.E.S. prior to returning to work.

### SIGNAGE:

The school will display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of Covid 19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.

### DESIGNATED ISOLATION ROOM:

A Designated Isolation Room has been identified within the school building. Staff members will follow the procedures in the D.E.S. Guidelines in relation to the use of this room.

### LEAD WORKER REPRESENTATIVE:

A Lead Worker Representative (LWR) has been appointed – Bn. Uí Ghallachóir. Deputy Lead Worker Representative has been appointed – Diane Dungan, Secretary. Responsibility for the development and implementation of the Covid 19 Response Plan and the associated control lies primarily with the Board of Management.

Our priority is to prepare as best we can for the safe return to school for the whole school community. Our decisions are informed by current guidelines available to us. As Covid 19 is a new illness with an evolving scientific base, it is possible that some of the advice in our statement and attachment will be superseded in the coming weeks and months.

We will communicate any additional updates to you.