

Returning to Scoil Naomh Bríd SEPTEMBER 2021



What parents need to know



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Covid-19 Response Plan

We have prepared a long document, specifying the specific actions we will take in our school following advice from the Government. It will be on our website. It is a working document and will be updated on a regular basis as things change around the school and in response to ongoing updates from the Department of Education and Skills (DES)

This is a short summary of the key points for ease of information



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Getting Ready to Go Back

School will be a little different this year, especially at the beginning, but the children will get used to it very quickly

Explain to your child that things will be a bit different, but try not to let them get too worried. Ensure them that lots of things are happening in school to make it an even safer place. Talk to them about their concerns and their teacher will talk to all children about any concerns when we get back

Now, as per DES guidance, practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with them so they are very familiar with it by the time they go back to school

***Please note that anybody who has visited a country not on the green list needs to self-isolate for two weeks before returning to school**

Please inform the school if this is the case

Good Hand Hygiene

Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Proper Hand Washing for Children

1: Wet



2: Bubbles



3: Scrub



4: Rinse



5: Dry



When to wash:

Before eating ▶

▶ After the bathroom

▶ After touching pets

▶ After playing outdoors

▶ After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Respiratory Etiquette

COVER YOUR COUGH AND SNEEZE

Stop the spread of germs that make people sick



What Your Child Needs to Bring

Items brought to school by children should be minimised and should include:

- School coat
- Hat / scarf / gloves
- Pre-filled water bottle
- Tissues
- Thursdays: Homework copy containing that week's homework

Items children must not bring to school until further notice:

- Musical Instruments
- Prizes/Medals
- Show and Tell items
- Personal History Items e.g. baby clothes
- Personal Books for DEAR Time/Teacher Read-Aloud
- Toys for Golden Time



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The School Bus

Bus Éireann are responsible for the safe management of children on school buses

More information is available on the **Back to School** section of the gov.ie website

However: A child at school who is displaying symptoms is not permitted to travel by bus and must be collected by parents/guardians



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Entering School in the Morning

To avoid crowding, three gates will be used for entry and exit to the school. Entry will be from 9:15 onwards. Each family will be informed of their gate

Bus children will enter the **top gate** of the school as usual. One bus will empty at a time and the children will line up, before following a one-way path to their classrooms

Families in Cars & Walkers will enter the school via the **graveyard gate**.

Parents/guardians must accompany their children through the graveyard and wait at a cone until the child is called forward by the teacher

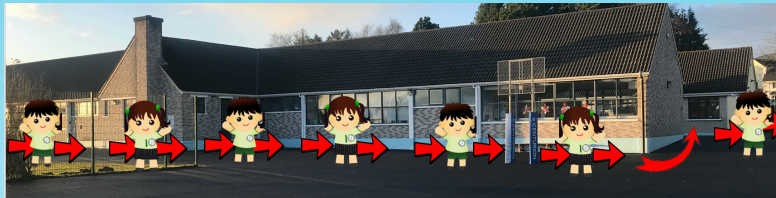
Individuals in Cars will enter the school via the **pitch gate**. Parents/guardians must accompany their child through the carpark and wait at a cone until their child is called forward by the teacher



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One-Way Path

A one-way system is in place for all movement around the school



Follow the
arrows and
stand on an X



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Physical Distancing

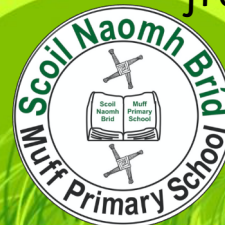
Children from Junior Infants – 2nd class are not required to physically distance. They can sit in groups/pods and each **pod** is seated 1m away from each other

Children from 3rd-6th class are expected to keep a distance of **1m** and their tables have been arranged singly to accommodate this

Each class is a '**bubble**' and contact between each bubble is extremely limited

Staff must try to maintain physical distance where they can, and will wear face coverings and other PPE when needed. Staff tables that are not 1m from pupils are provided with tabletop screens

Adults at school must keep a 2m distance from each other at all times



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What Classrooms Look Like

The largest classrooms are given to the largest classes

Junior Infant-2nd Classrooms look much the same. Children are seated in groups and extra furniture/toys have been removed where possible

3rd-6th Class room tables are separated singly and extra furniture has been removed where possible

Tape marks the floor where table legs should be to enable them to keep their distance and an area of 1m is taped off around the teacher's table



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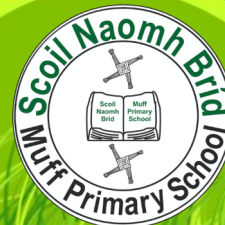
Hand Hygiene Routine

Extra hand sanitisers have been installed outside each classroom and each class also has a bottle of hand sanitiser

All our sinks have hot water, and soap and disposable paper towels are provided

Following HSE guidance on handwashing as a key preventative measure for Covid-19, a handwashing schedule has been put in place:

- Sanitise on entry to the classroom
- Wash your hands before eating at breaktime
- Sanitise after eating on way out to break
- Sanitise on way back into class after break
- Wash your hands before eating at lunchtime
- Sanitise on way back into class after lunch
- Sanitise on the way out the door



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Break & Lunch Times

The yard has been split into four play areas. Children have to stay in their 'bubbles' during break but are free to play with anyone they like in their bubble. Games must be non-contact and equipment will not be available. We will be learning fun traditional non-contact games to ensure breaktimes stay lots of fun

To minimize crowding outside, there will be two break & lunchtimes:

Early Breaks: **4th-6th Classes**

Later Breaks: **Junior Infants-3rd Class**

Break Times: 10:50-11 / 11:05-11:15

Lunch Times: 12:15-12:45 / 12:45-1:15



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Management of Resources

As part of the book rental scheme, each child has been provided with a clear plastic box to store all their books and stationery. Each box will stay under their chair

Wipeable copies have also been provided and two copies will be used for all classwork as class copies and books cannot be stored together

As per the stationery lists distributed in June, each child must have a full set of stationery that stays in school. There can be no sharing

Toys and classroom materials are subject to a regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule



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Uniforms & Coats

Children are invited to wear their school uniform as normal – wear the PE uniform on PE days and the formal uniform on all other days

School cloakrooms will not be in use this year to avoid crowding and each child will store their coat on the back of their chair on in their school bags

As we may be outside for longer lining up safely, all children must bring a coat with a hood every single day



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Homework

Materials cannot be brought in and out of school on a daily basis and books must be quarantined in a sealed box before the teacher can touch them

Therefore, written homework will only be given on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and returned to school on Thursdays. It will be corrected and returned for the following Monday



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Children with Additional Needs

All staff work together to make sure that your child's needs are catered for to the best of their ability. Classroom support plans and IEPs will operate as normal and meetings will be held over the phone

Special Education Teachers will be required to cover for mainstream teachers in the case of their absence and a substitute teacher not being available. This will mean that your child may have reduced support from the SET at times, but the school will do their best to avoid this happening



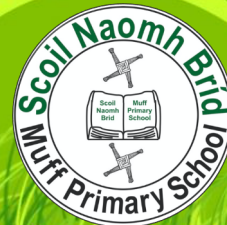
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Junior & Senior Infants

Junior and Senior Infants can be collected at the main school gates.

Junior Infants will go out the top gate. Their parents/guardians are invited to line up along the fence by the bus parking lane and are reminded of the requirement to keep a 2m distance. The teacher will send the children forward one by one as their parents/guardians come forward in the line.

Senior Infants will go out the bottom gate. Their parents/guardians are invited to line up along the school wall by the trees and are reminded of the requirement to keep a 2m distance. The teacher will send the children forward one by one as their parents/guardians come forward in the line.



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Going Home

The gates for going home are the same as the morning. Children will exit their classrooms and join the one-way system to their lining-up point

Buses: Children will be directed to go straight onto their bus from the one-way path

Families in Cars/Walkers: All exit their classrooms and follow the one-way path and exit at their line. Families find their name on the windows and line up with their siblings. Individuals also join the line and are escorted to the graveyard gate

Individuals in Cars: All exit their classrooms and follow the one-way path and exit at their line. They will be escorted to the pitch gate

Parents/guardians are invited to wait at the cones and their children will be sent forward to them one child/family at a time



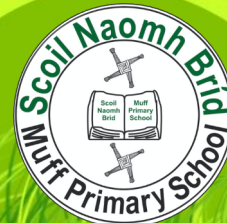
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A Different Way Home

If your child normally travels on the bus, but you need to collect them one day. Inform the teacher as normal. Then wait at the main gate of the school and your child can go forward to you as they exit the top gate in the bus line

If your child normally walks or travels home by car, and is going home with another family from another gate, please inform the teacher as arrangements may be made for that child to join a different exit line

General rule: always use the assigned gate no matter what way you travel to/from school



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Cleaning

Cleaning in schools will be increased considerably. Sanitiser and sanitising wipes are provided in each classroom

Children will not be asked to wipe down their spaces as part of the regular cleaning schedule

Class teachers will open classroom doors in the morning and at breaks to minimise the need for children to touch the doors

Frequently touched surfaces and bathrooms will be cleaned once during the school day and again in the evening

A cleaning schedule is in place and each classroom will be cleaned daily and in line with guidelines



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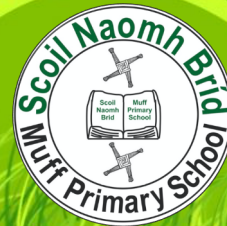
Visitors to School

Parents/guardians are not permitted to enter the school building

Appointments may be made to visit the school for essential purposes.

Visitors/Delivery people must telephone the school when they are at the gate

Visitors must keep a 2m distance from staff, sanitise their hands on entry and fill in the contact tracing log at the office hatch



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Latecomers to School

Parents/guardians are requested to bring their child to school one time before 9:30am

If a child arrives late to school, they should come to the main school gate as teachers will leave the other gates at 9:30am. Parents/guardians must telephone the school from the gate

If available, a member of staff will come to the gate to admit the pupil safely to the school and supervise their entry to their classroom along the one-way path

As all school staff have extra duties as part of the school Covid-19 response, it cannot be guaranteed that there will be anybody free to answer the phone or go to the school gate. We kindly ask for parental/guardian cooperation in this matter and that children arrive at school on time



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Collecting My Child During the Day

If a child has an appointment and must leave school during the day, parents/guardians should inform the school in advance

Parents will not be able to come into the school to sign in/out their child. They need to go to the main gate and telephone the office

The child will follow the one-way path to the main gate and school staff will sign the child out

When a child is returning to school during the day, parents/guardians should call from the front gate and a member of staff will come to the gate to collect the child. A member of staff will sign the child back in



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Communication

Aladdin Connect is the communication app being used by Scoil Naomh Bríd during Covid-19. Paper notes will not be sent home until further notice

The 'Covid-19' section of the website will be updated regularly

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their contact details are up to date via the app or by getting in contact with the school

In the event of a child feeling sick, DES guidance is that they are collected by parents/guardians as soon as possible, therefore the school needs to be able to contact the parents/guardians by phone easily

In place of meetings, phone calls re pupils can be schedule with school staff. Please contact the office to make an appointment

Absences can be reported online via Aladdin app.

A '**Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration**' form needs to be brought back to school with your child when returning after absence

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When to Keep Your Child at Home & Phone Your GP

Information from: www.gov.ie

Do not send your child to school if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a **temperature** of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any common symptoms of coronavirus - a new **cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse**
- are told by the HSE that they are a close contact of Covid-19
- live with someone who is unwell and may have Covid-19
- have other less common symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches or vomiting
- have diarrhoea
- returned from another country in the last 14 days with an adult that needs to self-isolate

Please note only the HSE are permitted to share any information about anybody at school who is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 – the school is not permitted to

Please Note: - As per HSE guidance:

- **Parents should be advised that the school reserves the right to decline entry to pupils who appear to have fever or respiratory tract infection**

If Your Child is Sick at School

HSE INFORMATION

- If a child develops any symptoms of acute respiratory infection including cough, fever, shortness of breath or sudden loss of taste or smell while at school, a staff member will need to take them to the place that is planned for isolation. *(We have a number of spaces identified in case they are needed. The main one will be the glass hallway to the left of the link doors. Parents coming to collect a child should come here unless informed otherwise)*
- Call their parent or guardian and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible.
- Remember the virus is spread by droplets and is not airborne so the physical separation is enough to reduce risk of spread to others even if they are in the same room.
- If a distance of 2m cannot be maintained then a staff member caring for a child waiting for pick-up should wear a cloth face covering or mask.
- The staff member should be aware that it is essential to avoid touching their own nose, mouth or eyes while caring for a symptomatic child and to perform hand hygiene.
- If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or unless they are subsequently advised to by public health.

The room will be subject to special cleaning following use



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Teacher Absences

Staff are subject to the same rules regarding coming to school with any symptoms of Covid-19. Classes cannot be split between other rooms as has happened in the past

The DES sequence of provision for covering absences is:

1. New Cluster Supply Panel

We are part of a cluster, however there are three teachers shared between 17 schools

2. School's own list of regular substitutes

It is extremely difficult to get regular substitute teachers, we have a list, but often it is impossible to get anybody from it

3. Special Education Teacher

In the event that a substitute teacher is not available, the SETs will be required to cover mainstream classes, leaving their own teaching duties until a substitute is found

4. Principal

In the event that the SETs are in classes, the Principal will have to leave her duties and cover classes until a substitute is found

5. 'Local arrangements that facilitate the pupils to be supervised in a manner that does not involve them being split between existing classes in classrooms'



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High-Risk People

Pupils or staff members who fall into the high-risk or very-high risk categories as per the HSE lists should contact the school as soon as possible

A Happy and Safe Year

Staff of Scoil Naomh Bríd will continue to work together to ensure our school is safe for learning

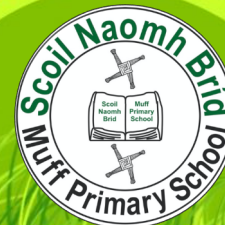
We will review DES and HSE guidance and update our Covid-19 Response Plan as necessary

We pray for a safe and happy year and ask for your ongoing cooperation

Thank you



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