

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

Reopening School Updated Logistics Plan February 2021

Underlying Principles

The school has a responsibility to make effort to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.

Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full school day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.

It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to school and the consequent risk of its spread. As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Assumptions

All children return to school at the appropriate reopening phase and classes operate within a bubble system.

All classes will have the usual start time of 9.20am to facilitate buses.

Within each class, the children will be further divided into pods, with a minimum distance of 1 metre being maintained between pods

Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

1. Arrival at School – 9.05am at the earliest

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for parents/guardians to come onto the school grounds before/after school. To minimise the risks, and to help us to maintain social distancing, the children may not come onto the school grounds before the school bell rings at 9.05am.

Children may be dropped outside the school gate between 9.05am & 9.20am. Children are not to congregate outside the school gate before 9.05am. They should wait until the school bell rings before exiting their car. We ask parents not to congregate at the school gate. Children walk directly to their class. Staff will supervise children entering the school. There will be supervision in their classroom from 9.05am. While we will all be delighted to see each other again, hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

Children will hand sanitise on entering the building or classroom.

Junior Infants	Usual classroom exit door at front of school
Senior Infants	Usual classroom exit door at front of school
1st Class	Usual classroom exit door at front of school
2nd Class	Usual classroom exit door at front of school
3rd Class	Around the back of school & enter the side door of school
4th Class	Around the back of school & enter through classroom emergency exit door
5th Class	Through the main school door & down corridor to classroom, walk on the right hand side of corridor
6th Class	Through Infant yard & enter through classroom emergency exit door

2. Break Times

The DES guidelines state that the risk of transmission from contact with outside surfaces or play areas is low. We are extremely lucky to have ample outside space in Scoil Bhríde. Each class will be allocated an area to play in with their class. Classes are not allowed to leave their

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

designated area, as there will be no mixing with other classes as per DES guidelines. Yard will be supervised in the usual way.

Classes will be using separate exits to go to and from yard. Teachers will walk pupils to their designated area. They will not be meeting other classes when going to or returning from yard.

3. Dismissal

Infants:

Junior & Senior Infants 2pm

Teacher will walk infants in their line to the gate when the bell rings at 2pm. **Please wait in your car until the bell rings at 2pm in order to avoid congregating at the gate. Please wear a mask when approaching the gate.**

When the teacher sees you, she will send your child out to you. Please observe social distancing at the gate.

Pupils travelling on the school bus (from 1st Class):

Buses will collect these pupils from 2.45pm

Please allow for ample room for the buses to pull in and out.

1st / 2nd Class & their siblings

Teachers will walk their classes to the gate at 2.55pm

2nd class & siblings will walk to gate near the wooden play shed.

1st class & siblings will walk to main school gate.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

Remaining children in 3rd- 6th Class

Teachers will walk the children to the gate at 3pm.

5th & 6th will walk to gate near wooden play shed.

3rd & 4th will walk to the main school gate.

Please wait in your car until the children approach the gate, in order to avoid congregation at the gate. Please wear a mask if approaching the gate.

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, please notify the school in advance via the office email or by telephone. The following arrangements will apply:

- **When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or ring the doorbell to alert staff that they have arrived.**
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out at the main door of the school. **Please fully complete the contact tracing form.**
- No adult should enter the school building without prior approval

4. Changes to Classroom and School Layout and to School Routines

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our Primary Schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms, to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

The children and their teachers will work in Class Bubbles. A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

All children will be arranged in Pods within their Class Bubbles. As far as possible, each Pod will be at least 1 metre distance from the next Pod.

5. Team Teaching / Special Education Teachers / Special Needs Assistant

Staff members, particularly Support teachers and SNAs, can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible. When rotation occurs, agreed sanitising routines will be observed.

On our return to school, on March 1st, our Special Education Teachers will provide all learning support & the station teaching support outside of the main classroom. The Special Education Teachers will only work with designated pods for station teaching.

The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different pupils or small groups attending. Special Education Teachers will collect children from their classroom when attending the SET room for learning support or for station teaching.

6. Uniforms/ Tracksuits

There is no guidance or advice in the guidelines regarding school uniforms or tracksuits. Please label all clothing.

We will implement the following practice in relation to uniforms and tracksuits.

Tracksuits: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Uniform: Tuesday & Thursday

As a school we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniforms or tracksuits **only for school related activities.** Uniforms or tracksuits should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops, during after-school activities, etc.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

7. Younger Pupils

Please ensure that your child can:

- Independently put on/off their jumper/coats etc.
- Independently pull up trousers/tights after using the toilet.
- Independently tie their shoelaces if required.
- Independently open their lunch box and items within and can eat without adult assistance.
- Pack & unpack their school bag.

8. Teaching & Learning

As a staff, we appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning, and we recognise the challenges that Home Learning presented for families.

On our return to school, the teachers will assess where the children are at and will plan based on that.

The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for us, and we ask you to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school.

9. Homework

Homework will be assigned by the class teacher. You will receive details from the relevant class teacher.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

10. Personal Belongings

We request that all children have a pencil case with pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., which they will leave in school and is for school use only. Separate pencils, rubbers, colours etc. should be bought to use at home. Children are not to share their belongings in school. Please label all items with your child's name for ease of identification. **Please ensure pencil cases have been replenished for the return to school, as children cannot share their belongings.**

11. Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools.

If a staff member or child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school:

- ***staff and pupils to self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test.***
- ***staff and pupils not to return to or attend school in the event of the following:***
 - ***if they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19***
 - ***if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus***
 - ***If they have travelled outside of Ireland; in such instances staff are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.***
 - ***staff and pupils to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school***
- ***Children who are generally unwell.***

12. Absences

As per school policy if a student is absent from school a reason must be provided. We ask that you do this via email to office@crossmahonns.com rather than sending in a note.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

13. Supporting the Learning of Children who Cannot Attend School

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/or the Special Education Teacher, where relevant) will provide work to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents/guardians. This does not apply to the regular brief absences from school where children experience minor childhood illnesses.

14. Know the Symptoms of COVID-19 In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19

We love to see all of our children at school every day. However, under the current circumstances, parents/guardians must keep children at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms. <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>

COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

It is important to know and recognise the symptoms.

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**

If you have any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a COVID-19 test.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

Other people in your household will need to restrict their movements (stay at home).

Getting an early diagnosis means, you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

For the complete list of symptoms, please refer to the HSE Website.

COVID-19 Tracker App

COVID Tracker app is a free and easy-to-use mobile phone app that will:

- alert you if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)
- keep other app users safe by alerting them if you test positive for COVID-19
- give you advice on what to do if you have symptoms You can download the free app from Apple's AppStore or the GooglePlay store.

15. Illness and Dealing with a Suspected Case of Covid 19

Staff / Pupil must not attend school if they display any symptoms.

A designated isolation area has been created in a room next to the Hall.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the

following procedure will be implemented:

- The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation area. A distance of 2 meters will be maintained. If this is not possible, the person accompanying the child must wear a face covering.
- If a pupil has a suspected case, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. Please ensure that your phone details are up to date. Please supply us with an

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

alternative emergency contact number in the event that we cannot contact either parent/guardian. Please ensure that that someone is available to collect your child if required.

- Staff members who are symptomatic should immediately inform the Principal/Deputy Principal and go to the isolation area.
- A face covering will be provided to the child who is symptomatic.
- The staff member or child who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.
- If the staff member/child is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible.
- Anyone who is symptomatic is advised to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to travel home.
- If the staff member/child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
- The isolation area and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned in line with the guidelines.
- The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.
- It is important to remember than any of us can get sick or unwell, and if we do, we need understanding and support from those around us. It is essential that anyone who feels unwell makes that known to the Principal/Deputy Principal as soon as possible.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

16. Corridors

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will implement the practice of walking on the right hand side of the corridor.

17. Windows

We have fully complied with guidance on ventilation issued to school last November. Windows will be kept partially open when the children are in class, fully open at break times and fully open for 15 minutes at the end of the school day.

18. Hygiene & Cleaning

Hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed in every classroom, SET rooms, offices and at all main school entry/exit points.

Any shared equipment such as I Pads etc. will be wiped down after each use.

Toys will be sanitised on a regular basis as per DES guidelines.

Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles will be wiped down frequently during the day.

Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene regularly throughout the day:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

-When their hands when they are physically dirty

-When they cough or sneeze

Alcohol-based sanitiser must not be stored or used near heat or naked flame.

-In accordance with the DE guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs, desks, sink and toilet facilities.

-All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.

-Waste will be collected regularly from offices and other areas within the school.

19. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff members will **wear surgical face masks** in school. This is especially important where physical distance cannot be maintained from another adult/child.

PPE will be worn where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation.

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they will apply standard precautions as per usual.

It is not advised for children under the age of 13 to wear face coverings.

There is no need for the children to wear disposable gloves. They are considered inappropriate under the guidelines. Staff members do not need to wear disposable gloves unless they are administering First Aid. There will be an emphasis on hand hygiene rather than on the wearing of disposable gloves.

Scoil Bhríde



Crossmahon

20. Staff Training

All staff will undertake and complete Covid-19 Induction Training prior to returning to the school building. The aim of such training is to ensure that staff have full knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Latest up to-date advice and guidance on public health Covid-19 symptoms
- What to do if a staff member or pupil develops symptoms of Covid-19 while at school
- Outline of the Covid-19 response plan
- Staff will be kept fully informed of the control measures in place in the school and their duties and responsibilities in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and will be updated with any changes to the control measures or guidance available from the public health authorities