



## **CORRESPONDENCE TO PARENTS FROM THE SCHOOL DURING COVID 19:**

**Please note contents of email received today 17.8.2020 from DES.**

### **Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad.**

Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone. It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of "normal precautions" ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and other children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

Dear parents,

Attached please find list of classes, teachers and room numbers for next year.

Can I also remind you that anyone intending to collect children from 1st, 2nd or 3rd class at going home time should be on the basketball court by 2.20 to avoid meeting with the children leaving at 2.25. Senior classes (4th, 5th, 6th) will go directly out at that time. Again, I remind that there should be no congregating at the entrance gate. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

We look forward to welcoming you all back.

Kind regards,

Brenda Carson



24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

**RE: Fáilte ar ais**

The BoM and School Staff are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and parents / guardians back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Tuesday next, 1<sup>st</sup> September.

We are satisfied that we have control measures in place to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the “new circumstances” as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation in making preparations to date and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes. We are also conscious of the fact that our pupils have not been in school since March and that they are looking forward to coming back to school to meet their friends again. We are aware that our new pupils are beginning a school year at a challenging time and have made plans to ensure that their arrival will be as free from stress as possible.

le meas,

Stephen Walsh

Cathaoirleach, An Bórd Bainistíochta

Brenda Carson

Príomhoide



17<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

**RE: Drop-off and Collection Routines**

The BoM and the School Leadership Team have been working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff in two weeks' time. We have now finalised our plans for drop-off and collection of the children every day.

Our Lady of the Wayside appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. If at all possible we request you not to come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. We appreciate that dropping off the Junior & Senior Infant pupils to their line in the yard is essential, but for the older pupils a drop off at the school gate is desirable. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is imperative that

- adults do not come within 2m of each other
- parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be for remote meetings/telephonic communications).
- all parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as attached.

Once again we remind you that children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14 day self-isolation period.

Le meas

Stephen Walsh

Brenda Carson

Cathaoirleach, An Bórd Bainistíochta

Príomhoide

10<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

**RE: Physical Distancing and Safe School Attendance**

We are currently working on upgrading our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

**Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -**

***Increasing Separation.*** This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

***Decreasing Interaction.*** This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. There will be marked routes for various bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Bubbles will have different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the playground. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.

**Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period**

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

Le meas

---

Stephen Walsh

Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta

---

Brenda Carson

Príomhoide

4th August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

**RE: Re-opening of Our Lady of the Wayside NS**

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our school has now been closed since 12<sup>th</sup> March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now hoping to re-open our school safely, in line with current guidance and recommendations.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BoM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and have published the DES COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary and Special Schools on our school website. The Response Plan gives details of

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations,
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

We have also published our COVID-19 Policy Statement on the school website. Our BoM will keep you informed as to the progress of our re-opening plans and provide you with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children. We will be in touch with you again before school re-opens.

Le meas

Stephen Walsh  
Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta

Brenda Carson  
Príomhoide

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>