



Burrane National School Re-Opening Plan September 2021

Wellbeing

As a staff, we look forward to welcoming the children back to school after the summer break. We recognise that the children have now had 2 school years which were affected by the pandemic. Each child will be in a different place in relation to his/her learning, and we wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2021/2022 school year.

We ask Parents to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during this new school year to continue to support your child with homework.

We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of our pupils and staff. These are promoting:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope

Specific supports will be available for children who are worried about coming back to school. Our SEN Staff will be working with children in the first few weeks to help them to settle in and hopefully allay any of their fears.

Parents who have concerns about their children's health and wellbeing will be encouraged to contact the school when we open so that we can support you and them in any way we can.

How Parents/Guardians can help: Read this document carefully. Be aware of all procedures. Talk to your child about what they can expect on their return to school. Support us and each other in adjusting to the necessary changes. Be flexible and patient as we proceed and find the best and safest way forward for Burrane NS. We are in this together.

Morning Arrival

- All pupils should arrive at the school in the 10 minutes immediately preceding school start time.
- Each class should line up at their designated point when the bell sounds with social distancing observed
- The class teacher will invite the children to enter the building.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email or by phoning the school.
- **Please do not congregate. Masks or face coverings must be worn once you exit your car.**

In Classrooms

- The school day will run from 9.20am to 3pm.
- Staff will ensure that pupils sanitise their hands at their designated entry door on arrival and a routine of hand washing and sanitising will be established from day 1.
- Pupils will enter their classroom with their teacher and be seated in their allocated seat in the classroom.
- Classes operate within a bubble system and each class is further divided into pods.
- All classrooms have been reconfigured, in line with advice from the Department of Education, in order to maximise physical distancing.
- The teacher's desk will be at least 1m & where possible 2m away from pupils' desks.
- From 3rd to 6th class, a distance of 1m will be maintained between pods
- Although maintaining physical distancing indoors is not a prerequisite in the first 4 years of primary school, the class teacher will make every effort to ensure physical distance is observed and Infants to 2nd class will be seated in pods.
- **How Parents/Guardians can help:** Ensure your child has everything needed – stationery items etc. Label all belongings, including pencil case items to avoid mix ups or sharing of belongings among children. Wipe/disinfect the outside of your child's pencil case each evening. Pare pencils in advance.

Break & Lunch Times

- Break time will be at 11am for 10 minutes and lunch time at 12.30pm for 30 minutes.
- Children will sanitise/wash their hands before and after break times.
- **How Parent/Guardians can help:** Ensure your child's lunch box and bottle are easy for them to open and do not leak. Include items in their lunches that they can easily manage – avoid items they cannot open or peel themselves. Ensure they have everything they need – extra drinks, cutlery etc. Lunchboxes and bottles must be washed every day as hard surfaces are most likely to spread the virus.

End of School Day

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait outside gate observing social distancing guidelines **Please do not congregate. Masks or face coverings must be worn once you exit your car.**
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –
 - Jun Infants – 2nd Class – will exit through the Junior Room exit door into the care of the adult who is there to collect them
 - 3rd – 6th Class – will exit through front door the teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact

Hygiene and Cleaning

- Soap and Sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school. Hand hygiene will be taught, promoted and encouraged. A routine of hand washing/sanitising will be implemented for all children and staff.
- Signage will be displayed around the school encouraging hand washing and good coughing or sneezing etiquette.
- Regular and thorough cleaning of communal areas and frequently touched surfaces shall be conducted, in particular, desks, toilets, sinks, and door handles. Cleaning will be performed regularly and whenever facilities or surfaces are visibly dirty. The school will be cleaned at least once per day.
- All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.
- There will be daily collection of waste from classrooms and other areas within the school.
- A written cleaning schedule will be available for our cleaning staff.

- **How Parents /Guardians can help:** Teach children how to wash their hands properly and how to use sanitiser effectively. Provide children with a packet of tissues and disinfectant wipes. Personal sanitisers may be provided if you wish. Use the slogan 'Cough or Sneeze? Elbow, please.' Keep fingernails clipped short and long hair tied back. Ensure your child's hands are thoroughly washed before they come to school each day.

Uniform

- Designated days for Uniform and PE clothes.
 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Uniform Clothes (Shirt and Navy Jumper, pinafore etc)
 - Tuesday and Thursday – PE Clothes (Polo Shirt, PE Top & tracksuit) Club/County ½ zip until School PE tops are organised.
- **How parents/guardians can help:** It is best practice that children remove their uniform / PE clothes as soon as they return home after school and they are to aired/washed (if soiled) for next day needed at school.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- It is recommended that primary school teachers and staff wear face coverings where a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. Visors and face masks are available to staff.
- For a limited number of staff, full PPE (apron, gloves, visor, mask) will need to be used occasionally or constantly due to the nature of certain work activities or work areas. This might include roles such as: - Assisting with intimate care needs - Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation.
- Primary school children will not be required to wear face coverings under any circumstances while in school. (Exception – if in isolation area)

School Visitors

- According to Government Guidelines, there can be **no walk in visits** to the school.
- All school visitors must make a **prior appointment** either by email or phone call and remain outside the main doors on arrival until a staff member can meet them. **Under no circumstances should a visitor enter the building without prior arrangement.**
- All visitors must complete a "School Contact Tracing Log". This log allows for contact tracing in the event of an infection, as it records contacts between staff and pupils, and others with whom staff have interacted. This log will be given to the visitor.
- All approved visitors must sanitise on entry. We will also request that all school visitors maintain 2 metre distancing between themselves and school staff at all times. Face masks will be available. Movement of visitors within the building will be strictly limited.
- **How Parents /Guardians can help:** Please contact the school prior to visiting.
- **Main Door will be unattended. You must phone the school.**

Collection of Children for appointments

The following arrangements will apply:

- Phone the school in advance to arrange.
- On arrival please ring the bell your child will be brought to you by a staff member.
- You will be asked to sign your child out.
- **Main Door will be unattended. You must phone the school.**

Returning a child to school/late arrivals

The following arrangements will apply:

- Please ring the bell at the front door your child will be met by a staff member.
- You will be required to sign your child in.
- **Main Door will be unattended. You must phone the school.**

Dropping off essential items during the school day

The following arrangements will apply:

- Should you wish to drop off an item for your child, please ring the bell at the front door and you will be met by a member of staff.
- **Main Door will be unattended. You must phone the school.**

Curricular Activities/Teaching and Learning

Covid-19 will impact on many activities in the school: Aistear, Art, IT, Music, group work and Sports. While we will be striving to return to as much normality as possible we will have to minimise sharing of equipment and increase cleaning and sanitisation. All of this will take time and planning and we will have to move forward slowly, following all recommended guidelines to find what works best for our school.

ICT

- Devices will be cleaned after use.

PE

- All equipment will be sanitised after use.
- All classes will participate in “The Daily Mile” and engage in regular movement breaks in the classroom.

Homework

- Each teacher will have responsibility for setting and correcting homework. Procedures will be monitored and evaluated as we progress.

Curriculum

- The Department of Education have advised that English, Gaeilge, Maths, PE and SPHE should be prioritised, with all other subjects to be covered using cross-curricular integration and a thematic approach.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

- **Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.**
- **Symptoms:** <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>
- **Do not send your child to school if they are unwell. Phone your GP for advice**

A designated isolation area has been identified within the school building.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while at work in Burrane National School the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- The child will be accompanied to the isolation area by a staff member.
- Social distancing and PPE protocols will be followed.
- A mask will be provided for the person presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises
- Parents will be directed to collect their child immediately and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The child will remain in isolation if they cannot immediately be collected by parents or if parents/guardians cannot be contacted, and their GP will be contacted by the school.
- If advice is required, emergency services will be called and informed that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- An assessment of the incident will take place which will form part of determining follow-up actions and recovery
- Appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved will take place.
- 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.
- **How Parents/Guardians can help:** Ensure the contact details held by the school are up-to-date and that we have the correct details for your child's GP.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have symptoms and have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- **Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school** <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

For the above categories of children (exception below) the class teacher (and/or the SET, where relevant) will provide work to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents/guardians along with other suggested activities.

Please note: The school, as per Government guidelines, will provide online distance learning for **children in the very high risk category only**.

Special Educational Needs

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to limit, as far as possible, the contact between Special Education Teachers and class bubbles.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The tables and chairs, door handles etc. in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending
- Smaller groups will be created where possible.
- Sanitisers will be placed at the entrance to each SEN room and pupils must sanitise on entering and wash their hands on return to class.
- Teachers are advised not to stoop down to pupils if possible.
- Staff may use face visors/masks.
- SEN staff will escort children to and from SEN rooms.
- All resources used must be sanitised immediately after use. Resources must not be shared between pods during team teaching/in-class support.
- Parents must ensure pupils have 2-3 pencils/pens in their pencil cases. Pencils are to be sharpened at night.
- Team/station teaching may occur in the junior classes with awareness of social distancing and where resources are not shared between pods.
- Use of the outdoor classroom, weather permitting, will be encouraged.

Thank you for familiarising yourself with this document.

All of the amendments that have been made in Burrane NS are as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The procedures and systems that have been put in place are fully compliant with Government guidelines for re-opening schools. This is a working document which will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with advice from the Department of Education and NPHE. We look forward to relaxing and amending these procedures in the future. In the meantime, we hope you will not be inconvenienced by the measures we must take and we look forward to welcoming all of the children back to Burrane NS.

Kind Regards, Helen Kelly.

Maximise distance. Minimise contact.