

# Corpus Christi Girls National School

## School Reopening Plan

The Reopening Committee of the school have set out regulations and procedures to be followed to ensure we are adhering to Department of Education guidelines.

These procedures will be reviewed regularly in line with governmental advice and internal audits on procedure, we will communicate to you of any adjustments we have to make to our Reopening plan in the coming weeks.

### **Please read the Underlying Principles and Our Reopening plan for your child**

- The Board of Management has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being 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.
- 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 (class) 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.
- Pods are arranged by teachers and will remain together until a review takes place in line with guidelines. Due to large numbers and the needs of each individual class, it is impossible to arrange pods by friends, neighbours, creche - users and child minders etc.
- Children from Junior Infants to Second class (Juniors) attend school as normal within their class bubble and engage in all the normal activities as they are not required to socially distance.
- Children from Third class to Sixth class (Seniors) are required to socially distance and are grouped in small groups called pods with approximately 1 metre distancing
- The Junior and Senior groups in the school are kept separate due to different social distance requirements. There will be staggered arrival and dismissal times and staggered lunch breaks to maintain the separation of the Junior and Senior groups. This is to reduce the numbers of children and adults congregating at the one time.
- At break times, class bubbles will play separately to ensure social distancing measures are adhered to.
- **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.

- The protocols put in place by Corpus Christi GNS are to safeguard the health and safety of each other. Parents are expected to abide by them and failure to do so may result in a parent being required to remove a child from the school building/yard, and or to leave the school premises themselves. If serious breaches of safety measures occur, the Board of Management may be informed.
- **In the event of a Covid-19 positive test in the school, the HSE Department of Public Health will give advice and guidance on communication to parents and staff when needed. Please refer to the document on our website: [corpuschristi.ie](https://www.corpuschristi.ie) Schools Pathway for Covid-19, the Public Health Approach.**

## Teaching points for your child prior to returning to school

### Respiratory Hygiene

Take time to teach your child to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin. By following good respiratory hygiene, we can protect the people around us from viruses such as cold, flu and Covid-19

### Hand Hygiene

Children should understand why hand hygiene is important as well as when and how to wash their hands. We will promote good hygiene and display posters throughout the schools on how to wash your hands. Please follow the HSE guidelines on handwashing: <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>

Hand hygiene will be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean). Hand sanitiser dispensers have been deployed at exit and entry points in the school and in classrooms.

### Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty
- When they cough or sneeze
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### Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing will look different across the various ages in the school and stages of learning.
- Children from Junior Infants to Second class do not have to be socially distanced but must remain with their class bubble
- Children from third to sixth must be socially distanced in the classroom and kept in their class bubble

Physical distancing falls into two categories:

- Increasing separation
- Decreasing interaction

The staff of the school have been working hard to reconfigure classrooms to maximise space.

Furniture has been removed to create increased separation and distances of 1 metre between pupils and pods.

Staggered arrival/dismissal times and staggered break times have been introduced to reduce the numbers of pupils and parents on the yard.

Procedures are in place to reduce the human traffic in the school to the bare minimum.

The school yard is in the process of being relined into zones to separate the classes so that they are socially distanced from each other as per guidance from the Department of Education.

## Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 virus

**Pupils should not attend school** if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by the School secretary. If the parents are not available, an emergency person must be available to collect their child. Siblings to be located in classes in school and brought to reception.
- The child will be accompanied to the waiting area.
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. She should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises
- The child presenting with symptoms will be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- If the child is well enough to go home, as soon as possible, parents are advised to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
- If the child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the area.

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.

### **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 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
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

## Signs and Symptoms of Covid-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

## Timetable for Arrival/Dismissal

<b>Timetable for Juniors</b> (Junior Infants- Second class)	<b>Timetable for Seniors</b> (Third class- Sixth class)
<p><b><u>One parent only</u></b> is permitted to accompany a child/children to line up area in the yard.</p> <p>8:40am – Main Entrance at Homefarm Road opens. Children and parents from the Junior end of the school enter</p> <p>8:50 am– Class teachers collect children from line up area</p> <p>1:30pm – Junior and Senior Infant classes finish</p> <p>2:20pm – First and Second classes finish</p>	<p><b><u>Parents drop child to the Main Entrance on Home Farm Road</u></b></p> <p>8:50am: Children from senior end of the school enter the yard through Homefarm Road entrance and line up in the designated line up areas.</p> <p>9:00am– Class teachers collect children from line up area</p> <p>2:30p.m- Third and fourth classes finish</p> <p>2:40p.m –Fifth and sixth classes finish</p>

## Arrival: Juniors: Junior Infants to Second Class

**Gates Open: Assembly: 8:40am      Class teachers collect classes from yard: 8:50am**

- **We respectfully ask that parents wear facemasks for their own protection and the protection of others.**
- Walking to school or parking a good distance from the school is preferable to avoid traffic congestion. **There is no parking permitted in the Church grounds.**
- Parents should wait in their cars if driving to avoid congregating too early in the school yard.
- **One parent only** is to accompany child/family at the Junior end (Junior Infants to Second class) of the school.
- Siblings of children in the junior end of the school may line up along the footprints at the back wall and remain there socially distanced until their assembly time at 9:00am. They should stay on the footprints at all times.

- Please enter the school through the main entrance gate on Homefarm Road **only**.
- The line-up area will be marked with the name of your child's class teacher.
- There will be teachers there to guide you to the line-up area.
- Please line up with your child and remain socially distanced from the family in front of you. Please make sure your child remains at your side at all times to avoid the mixing of class bubbles.
- The class teacher will collect the class from the yard line up points and bring the children into the classroom. Stay with your child until the handover has taken place.
- Parents should exit the yard immediately through the designated exit points.
- We respectfully ask parents not to linger in the yard after your child has been handed over and to avoid congregating in groups and congesting the yard areas.
- **Leaving the yard promptly is essential to ensure the children from third to sixth class have sufficient time to line up safely** Time management and following procedures is key to the smooth operation of arrival/dismissal of pupils.
- Scooters and bicycles are **not permitted** on the yard at any time, they must be left in the bicycle rack
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Parents should take care to ensure children have their lunch/drink with them. Forgotten lunches should be left in a plastic covered box outside the office with the child's name, class and teacher on it. There is no need to enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be communicated by phoning the school office or secretary@corpuschristi.ie

## End of School Day (Juniors)- Junior Infants to Second Class

### **Collection Time**

1:30pm: Junior and Senior Infants finish

2:20pm: First class and Second class finish

- **One parent only** is to collect child/family at the Junior end (Junior Infants to Second class) of the school.
- **It is imperative that parents are on time to collect their child from school. Children whose parents are late will to line up in a designated area**
- The parent/guardian who is collecting their child/family from school at the end of the day, should wait socially distanced on the footprints in class line up area
- When the school day is over the following arrangements will apply –
  - Classes will exit on a class by class basis leaving a time gap.
  - From Junior Infants to Second class- the class teacher will bring the children to their designated line up area and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. This will be done on a class by class basis. Parents should be lined up in the class line up area (socially distanced) and ready to receive their child.
- The parent must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
- We would appreciate if parents would not linger in the yard after the child has been handed over. We have a schedule to adhere to, ensuring the classes come out on a

staggered basis and the yard clears quickly to facilitate the dismissal of the next class grouping

## Arrival (Seniors): Third class- Sixth class

**Assembly: 8:50am      Class teachers collect classes from yard: 9:00am**

- **We respectfully ask that parents wear facemasks for their own protection and the protection of others when dropping off senior pupils**
- Walking to school or parking a good distance from the school is preferable to avoid traffic congestion. **There is no parking permitted in the Church grounds.**
- Parents should wait in their cars until designated assembly time to avoid congregating outside the school grounds. Parents should not enter the school grounds
- Children from third to sixth must not enter the yard before 9:00am
- Children should **only** enter the school through the main entrance gate on Homefarm Road.
- The line-up area will be marked with the name of your child's class teacher.
- There will be teachers there to guide the children to the line-up area.
- The child will line up on the footprints, socially distanced from the child in front of them. Children should stay on these footprints and not move until their teacher arrives.
- The class teacher will collect the class from the yard line up points and bring the children into the classroom.
- Scooters and bicycles are **not permitted** on the yard at any time, they must be left in the bicycle rack
- We respectfully ask parents not to linger at the school gates or on the Church grounds after your child has been dropped and to avoid congregating in groups.
- Time management and following procedures is key to the smooth operation of arrival/dismissal of pupils.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Parents should take care to ensure children have their lunch/drink with them. **Forgotten lunches** should be left in a plastic covered box outside the office labelled with the child's name, class and teacher on it. There is no need to enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be communicated by phoning the school office/email
- Parents who wish their children to go home alone, must fill in a permission slip (available on the website)

## End of School Day: Dismissal (Seniors): Third class- Sixth class

### **Collection Times**

2:30 pm: Third class and Fourth class

2:40 pm: Fifth and Sixth class

- **It is imperative that parents are on time to collect their child from school. Children whose parents are late will have to line up in the holding area**

- The parent/guardian who is collecting their child/family from school at the end of the day, should wait socially distanced outside the exit points
- When the school day is over the following arrangements will apply –
  - Classes will exit on a class by class basis leaving a time gap.
  - Third class will be brought by their class teachers to Exit point 1 (gate to church grounds) (it will be labelled)
  - Fourth classes will be brought to Exit point 2 (gate to church grounds) (it will be labelled)
  - Fifth class will be brought by their class teacher to Exit point 2
  - Sixth class will be brought to the Main Entrance on Homefarm Road
- The parent must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
- The parent should leave the surrounding area immediately once their child has been collected.

### **Collection of Children during the School Day**

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply. These collections should only be for essential purposes:

- If a child has to miss school for an essential reason, a note must be written to alert the teacher
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should phone the office and alert the secretary.
- 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
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so or by appointment

### **Uniforms**

Our pupils will continue to wear the school uniform. Children's uniforms must be clean and washed regularly as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols.

We will follow the practice in relation to uniforms and tracksuits whereby uniforms are worn two days each week and tracksuit on three days. This is to allow time for cleaning and also to facilitate outdoor P.E. The class teacher will communicate the days for wearing uniform/tracksuit in due course.

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

## **Lunches**

Children will be asked to bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day.

Parents are asked to remind their child **not to share** their food or drinks with other children. Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as is our usual practice. They will hand sanitise before and after lunch. Children's lunch box waste- can be brought home and recycled.

Lunch Boxes - parents are asked to ensure that the outside of your child's lunch box, bottles and other lunch utensils are sanitised before sending into the school and on return home. Parents are asked to label all items well.

The Milk Scheme in the school has been suspended. Water bottles are to be filled at home every morning

## **Equipment**

### **Junior Infants- First class**

- **There is no sharing of equipment or personal items**
- **N.B All children should have waterproof raingear in school at all times.** It is imperative that classrooms are ventilated regularly throughout the day and that children are taken out for fresh air when possible.
- Children from Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First class will be provided with the necessary equipment for school
- Class teachers will communicate with parents directly when requiring extra equipment.
- Personal items- clothing, lunch boxes etc should be labelled with your child's name
- Lunch boxes/drink bottles should be easy to open

### **Second to Sixth class**

- **There is no sharing of equipment or personal items**
- **N.B All children should have waterproof raingear in school at all times.**
- Children from **first to sixth class** must bring a pouch with their own hand sanitiser, small towel (facecloth) and tissues. These are to be replaced/washed regularly. Hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed in all classrooms to be used upon entry and exit. Individual mini bottles are required to reduce congestion at times. Children will use these before and after their lunch.
- Parents must ensure that all of the child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot be shared.
- It is not possible for children to bring excessive amounts of stationary/pens/pencils to school this year. It is important to reduce the number of personal items, avoid sharing and cross-contamination. A sensible number of pens, pencils crayons/markers is acceptable
- Parents are to ensure that their child knows and uses the protocols around coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.



- Parents must ensure that all books/writing equipment/lunch boxes/water bottles are sanitised using alcohol wipes on completion of homework before being placed in the child's schoolbag

### **Books/Book Rental Scheme**

Books will be distributed by the Book Rental Committee this week. Children will keep their assigned books in a pile on their desk at all times. Books should be labelled with the child's name. Under no circumstances can books be shared.

Pupils who are not participating in the Book Rental Scheme will find their booklists on the school website.

### **Learning Support**

Pupils will continue to be supported by our SET Team (Special Education Teachers). The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of a bubble. Social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.

### **Remote learning**

The school is beginning the process of setting up an online platform in the event of further lock down measures.

### **School Calendar**

Please find the Calendar for this school year on the school website

### **Toileting**

- Children are to go to the bathroom **before** they leave home for school daily.
- Children are to wash their hands **before** leaving for school
- There will be time tabled toilet breaks to facilitate cleaning between usage.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

In the current crisis, it will not be possible to make the school available for extra-curricular activities. This will be reviewed at intervals.

### **Curriculum**

We will focus on the core areas of Numeracy, the Language Curriculum (Gaeilge and Literacy), SPHE and P.E in the coming weeks. This is to allow the children adjust to school again and to facilitate the change in routine and increased hygiene practices. As we progress further, we will reintroduce SESE and Visual Arts with a view to returning to a full curriculum in the medium term.

## **Wellbeing of the School Community**

At Corpus Christi Girls National School, we are committed to working on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all 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

The Staff of Corpus Christi GNS are delighted to be returning to school and reuniting again with the girls and their families. It will be a great day of hope and joy for us all.

***Ní neart go cur le chéile***

*There is strength in unity*

**Some good news!! No homework! extended until the end of September**

Míle buíochas do gach duine

Niamh Greene\_(Principal)