

Dear Parent / Guardians,

We all want to protect our school community and our families . To do so requires us all to work together. This will require protocols inside and outside school.

These include being able to recognise symptoms, seeking medical advice when concerned, not coming to school if you have symptoms, keeping social distance requirements, observing good hand-washing and sanitising routines, mandatory wearing of face coverings where 2 metres distance cannot be maintained. (See STATEMENT FROM MINISTER FOLEY BELOW)

In school we have made great efforts to manage the return to school.

The latest advice and guidance tells us that cloth face coverings help prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus from the wearer to those they come into close contact with. Public health advice has been given to the Department of Education on the wearing of face coverings in schools and this advice has been accepted by the Department and by the Board of Management.

At the outset it must be noted that this is the procedure that the school is directed to operate. We have been directed to follow specific guidelines and we will not be getting into debates about the wearing of mask / face coverings. We are all aware of the discomfort in wearing face coverings. We have discussed the need to facilitate breaks from class so that pupils can remove the mask outside. We will do our best to manage this.

We are determined to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 to everyone and we want everyone to play their part in achieving this. We certainly do not want anything to add to the difficulties that we have all experienced and we need everyone to work together to get through this challenge.

The school management has been advised that the school would insist on medical certification if seeking an exemption from a cloth face covering. The guidance has been updated to state the exemption from a cloth face covering is interpreted as requiring a clear visor.

No pupil will be admitted to school without a face covering.

No visitor will be admitted to school without a face covering.

We are hopeful that we can manage a safe return to school. We must minimise the contact with adults, hence the requirement that all visits to the school must be arranged and agreed in advance. (See Section 4.7 from Covid Response Plan below)

Paul Fiorentini

Principal

PRIME TIME INTERVIEW WITH MINSITER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Secondary school children who refuse to wear a mask at school for reasons other than medical will be sent home, according to Education Minister Norma Foley.

Speaking on Prime Time tonight, she said that all children in secondary schools are expected to wear the masks and each school “operates by its own rules”.

“Each school operates by its own rules but the schools are aware that it is mandatory to wear the masks. And unless the child has a particular ailment or a particular issue from a medical point of view that would mean that they’re not in a position to wear the mask,” she said.

When asked if children will be sent home if they decline to wear a mask, she answered: “Yes absolutely, everybody is expected to wear the mask unless there is a medical dispensation if you like.”

Section 4.7 of the Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of schools requires schools to restrict access by visitors to the school for essential purposes only. Parents, contractors, and others who may wish to visit the school must get prior permission from the principal. Details of a person visiting will be required and kept for the purposes of contact tracing.

Any person intending to visit the school must ring in advance and inform the secretary. A request to visit the school will be approved by the principal. Upon arrival, the person will fill out the visitor's log at reception. If the member of staff is immediately available that staff member will take responsibility for the visitor and ensure (s)he adheres to school protocols. Where the member of staff is not immediately available the visitor will be asked to wait in the meeting room, if available, or in their vehicle until the member of staff is available.