



## Monastery NS Return to Normality Plan – March 2022

This plan is to inform parents of new Public Health advice received from Government on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 regarding the removal of most *Covid Control Measures* in our school. In general, our school will now resume normal school routines and teaching and learning activities. **We have already implemented some of the changes and most others will commence next Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2022**. Please note carefully the following;

### What remains the same?

- *The Department of Education requires our school to **continue the use of good infection control and prevention measures** such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene and ventilation. The after school enhanced weekly cleaning regime will also continue for the remainder of the school year.*
- ***Pupils and staff are required to stay at home if they have Covid symptoms.** We are still in a pandemic situation and one of the key messages to manage the risk of Covid-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of Covid into our school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread.*
- ***Please continue to notify our school if your son has a positive Covid test or is a household close contact.** It greatly helps us to manage, contain and prevent the spread of covid in a class and to alert other parents to be vigilant.*

### What is changing?

- ***It is no longer a requirement for staff or pupils to wear a face covering/mask in school.** Staff and pupils continue to wear a face covering/mask if they wish to do so on a personal basis. Parents entering the school grounds no longer have to wear a face covering / mask.*
- *As the general requirement for physical distancing in society no longer applies, **schools are no longer required to maintain class Pods and bubbles.** The normal management of classroom layout will once again be at the discretion of the class teacher. The separation of classes on our school yards will be removed and class designated yards will return from next Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>.*
- *There will be **a return to team teaching, sports, singing and music, and school tours in due course.** Staff rooms will be reopened to all staff and our Gym will once again be used for PE.*
- ***Staggered morning drop offs, staggered breaks and staggered home pickups will cease from Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>.** Please note carefully the changes to our new morning and home times on the next page which will help us to maximise teaching time and minimise class disruption.*

1. **Morning and Home times from Monday March 21st** – Parents / guardians are asked to carefully note the following arrangements for coming to school and going home from school from **Monday March 21st**.
  - **Please note that formal teaching now begins 10 minutes earlier in the morning at 9.20am and not 9.30am as previous. From Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> school closes 10 minutes earlier at 1.55pm (infants) and 2.55pm (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>).**
  - *Our front and back gates will continue to open at 9.10am each morning and will continue to be supervised by a teacher. In the interest of health and safety pupils should not arrive too early before our gates open at 9.10am.*
  - *We strongly encourage parents of senior pupils (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>) to continue to “drop and go” at our front and back gates from **9.10am to 9.20am**. **Pupils continue to proceed directly to their classes via the same designated class outside entry / exit point.** Infant parents should continue to drop off / pick up their children from the infant yard / senior infant doors as normal.*
  - **1<sup>st</sup> class Parents should now collect their children outside the Gym doors at the new 2.55pm home time.**
  - ***It is the responsibility of each parent to apply common sense and allow their child to enter safely during the arrival times from 9.10am to 9.20am.***

	<b><u>Previous Time</u></b>	<b><u>New Times from Monday March 21st</u></b>
<b>Morning Drop Off</b>	9.10am to 9.30am	<b>9.10am to 9.20am</b>
<b>Infants Pick Up Time</b>	2.05pm	<b>1.55pm</b>
<b>Seniors Home / Pick Up Time</b>	Staggered times 2.50 to 3pm	<b>2.55pm</b>

**Late arrivals** – Punctuality is very important. Please ensure your son is on time and arrives on time for school each day. All pupils continue to wash and sanitise their hands on entry to their classroom.

**Late drop offs of lunch etc** – Monastery NS discourages late drop offs of lunch etc. **Please ensure your son has everything he needs coming to school and that late drop offs are not necessary.** However, in the event of a late drop off parents can now call to the office reception.

**Contact/Messages for teacher must be directed to the school office reception in person, by email or telephone call. If necessary, teachers will respond verbally with parents by telephone or arranged meeting.**

**Please continue to use the Eolas App / email / telephone call to notify us of absences.**

## 2. **School Uniform**

- All pupils can come to school in their **School Uniform** or **School PE Uniform** at parents' discretion every day for the remainder of this school year. **However, we return to our School Uniform Dress Code in September 2022.** i.e. School uniform 4 days a week and PE Uniform / tracksuit one teacher nominated PE day per week. Please see details of changes to our school uniform in the Parent's section of our school website.
  - **All pupils must have a warm rainproof winter coat.** We will continue most of our PE activities and many additional learning activities outdoors. All breaks will be taken outside in moderate to good weather conditions.
3. **Lunches, refuse and food waste** – All lunch refuse and food waste will continue to be brought home by pupils in their lunch boxes. **Please wash your child's lunch box each day.**

#### 4. Covid-19 Infection Controls to continue

##### **Hand Hygiene Regime**

Please ensure that your child's hands are washed and sanitised prior to arrival at school. Children will wash / clean / sanitise hands: on arrival in class – before and after eating – on return to class after break times / SET withdrawal etc – at home time - After using the toilet and washing their hands. As regular sanitising of children's hands may cause irritation we advise parents to treat their children's hands at home with conditioner / creams accordingly. Children who have highly sensitive skin or a specific skin condition are permitted to use their own approved sanitiser gel / liquid. This should be stored safely in their school bags in a plastic bag and parents should ensure that is provided for their son each school day.

##### **Room Ventilation**

- All classroom internal doors and windows will be open each day. In cold/windy weather teachers will adjust the airflow through open windows to ensure that there is no discomfort.
- At break times and at the end of the school day all classrooms will be fully ventilated. i.e. all windows, velux windows and doors opened fully.
- On wet days if break times have heavy rain the pupils will remain inside but as many windows and doors as possible will be opened. When heavy rain ceases all classes must take a 10 minute ventilation break with their teacher on their yard and the room must be fully ventilated.
- The school will be constantly heated to a comfortable room temperature throughout the day.
- Each class has a CO2 monitor which is regularly monitored by our staff.

##### **Cleaning (40 hours per week after school)**

- Teachers are responsible for cleaning their own work surfaces including computer desk and teacher equipment. SNAs will assist in the cleaning of classes and equipment each day.
- All toilets and classrooms will be cleaned by our cleaners each day as per current schedule.
- In addition all tables, chairs and all recommended areas as per DES / HSE guidance will be cleaned each day.
- Following this daily cleaning schedule all rooms will be sanitised by a fogging machine.
- Infant yard equipment will be cleaned and sanitised each week.
- Infant classes' equipment will be cleaned each day.

5. Special Education Needs – Pupils will continue to be withdrawn individually or in small groups from the class to SEN rooms. Pupils sanitise before and after visiting SEN room. SEN teachers clean and sanitise SEN area before taking the next group. Team teaching will recommence in due course.

#### 6. Break times and Yards – normal morning and lunch breaks will return on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

- **Morning break 10.50 to 11.05. Lunch break 12.30 to 1.05pm.**
- Junior and senior infants will have the infant yard to themselves with no separation. Go Karts and the Wendy house will resume in due course. Playground equipment will continue to be rotated between groups from each class. The equipment will be cleaned and sanitised at the end of each week.
- The senior yard will no longer be divided by cones and ropes and classes will have a designated soccer pitch on alternative days. Pupils are only permitted to play with their class peers.
- Weather and dry ground conditions permitting the field will be used at break times by all classes.

7. The Office is now open to visitors. Email and telephone communication is also available to parents.

8. School Virtual Learning Environments – MNS Seesaw (Infants to 5<sup>th</sup>) and MNS Google Classroom (6<sup>th</sup>) will continue to be used once a week for homework by our teachers and pupils.

9. Resource sharing will no longer be limited in each class setting. Where resources have to be shared they will be cleaned and sanitised after use. PE equipment has been divided among classes for the school year.

10. Other school activities – all other school activities will resume in due course.

Date: 11/3/22

Principal Signature: *Jim McGee*