

# St. Anne's Loreto P.S. Document for the Re-Opening of our School.

## Introduction

**This plan has been developed by key personnel in St. Anne's Loreto P.S. in accordance with advice from the relevant authorities (DES, HSE, NPHE). The Plan was ratified by the school's Board of Management on August 20th 2020. It is a *live document* that will be reviewed regularly & amended as required, to ensure compliance with best practice & the most up-to-date advice. The most recent '*live*' version of the plan will be available to view on the school website [www.stannesnavan.ie](http://www.stannesnavan.ie) under the Covid 19 tab.**

## Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility 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.
- It is not possible to completely 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.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.
- In order to maintain a safe, secure workplace & learning environment, the only adults permitted to enter the school grounds are members of staff or persons engaged in essential work on behalf of the Board of Management. **Parents/Guardians must remain outside the school gates while dropping off or collecting children.**

## Basic Principles:

- A return to work form should be completed by staff and returned to the school before returning to work. The school will request that staff confirm that details in the pre-return to work form remain unchanged following subsequent periods of closure such as school holidays.
- Staff will be advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test.
- A return to school Parental Declaration form needs to be completed on behalf of each child returning to class. This HSE compliant declaration can be completed through the Aladdin Connect App on the Parent/Guardian's device in advance of the child/ren's return.

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- Staff and pupils are advised not to return to school if they are identified by the HSE as a confirmed case, a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus.
- If anyone within the school community has travelled outside of Ireland they are advised to consult and rigorously follow latest Government advice on this matter.
- Staff and pupils are strongly advised to cooperate with all Public Health Officials and St. Anne's Loreto P.S. Management for contact tracing purposes and follow rigorously the Public Health advice in the event of a positive case or outbreak being identified in our school.
- All children returned to school for term 1 on August 28<sup>th</sup> and classes operated within a 'bubble' system, with smaller 'pods' (groups) of 2-4 pupils created within senior classes and 2-6 pupils within junior classes. This system continues for term 2 with the Speech & Language Class pupils and staff returning from 22/02/'21. Junior Infant – Second class pupils and staff are returning from 1<sup>st</sup> March '21. Third – Sixth class pupils and staff are scheduled to return on 15<sup>th</sup> March '21 with the same procedures adopted.
- The morning entry of classes is divided into groups who will enter the building through separate entry points, no more than 3 classes at each point. Each class will be given an individual starting time and end of day collection time, which must be adhered to, maintaining the correct length of school day. The aim is to eliminate congestion on-site. \*Siblings (brothers and sisters) will be facilitated to be dropped to school at the one time, **preferably the earliest scheduled time for these siblings**. Please see the colour coded 'Phased Entry/Exit System' at the end of this document.
- There will be 2 separate morning break times & 2 separate lunch times, so as to reduce the numbers of children sharing the same space at recreation time. Each of our 3 yard spaces will be 'zoned' so that class 'bubbles' can be maintained. Pupils will be made aware of their zoned play area and must not breach this to mix with other class bubbles.
- The school day will include 1 x 10-minute morning break & 1 x 35-minute lunchtime break as heretofore for each class. 2 relays of morning breaks and lunch breaks will occur daily, supervised with a teacher on duty in each yard space and an SNA where possible. Pupils are heavily encouraged to remain in the yard for 100% of their recreation time.
- Within each class, teacher/SNA's workspace will be 1 metre distant from the nearest pupils. In classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> the children will maintain a minimum distance of 1m from each other. Table/chair legs will have floor stickers to adhere to in the event of movement. We will be asking pupils to assist us in maintaining this guideline throughout each day to maximise the ongoing safety for all in the school and ensure we can remain operational.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points, in all classrooms and support rooms. This sanitiser is not stored or used near heat. Hands should be thoroughly washed

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regularly and Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure their child/ren are shown how to do this independently. Hands should be washed and sanitised when entering and exiting vehicles AND when entering and exiting our school building.

- Perspex screens are available for the SET staff and other mainstream staff as they see the need. They have also been installed at hand-washing stations in the communal bathrooms to eliminate as far as is possible the likelihood of droplets spraying on others washing 'next door' at the adjacent sink. Mobile Perspex units have also been sourced to guard against similar spray of droplets at the classroom sinks if teachers feel this is a requirement.
- Windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-time and lunch-time and also at the end of each school day). Windows must remain partially open when classrooms are in use. This guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather.
- School staff are encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contact tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.
- Staff members are asked to undergo any COVID-19 testing that may be required as part of mass or serial testing as advised by Public Health.
- A nominated member of the school management team will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.

## Timetables

**Starting time for all children will commence from 8.55am. In order to maintain social distancing, we request that parents & pupils 'stagger' their arrival time as outlined below in red beside their Class Teacher's name. We will facilitate siblings from other classes being dropped to school together in the mornings ONLY. At 'home time' pupils must be collected at the appointed time for their class as teachers start their DES classroom antibacterial cleaning schedule. Pupils should enter the school grounds and proceed directly to their classroom via the designated gate, route & entrance door for their particular class ONLY. Pupils will not congregate or line up in the school yard in the mornings or after break times. Teachers will be in their respective classrooms from 8:55am to receive their pupils.**

**\*\* We ask parents in line with Government Directives to please not congregate at the entry/exit points when dropping or waiting to pick up your child. This is crucial to the success of our Return to School Plan and to ensure full compliance with NPTET directives from the St. Anne's Loreto P.S. Community.\*\***

## Entry and Exit Points for Specific Classes.

Class	Teacher(s)	Rm.	Gate	School Entry & Exit Point
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Jun. Infs.	Ms. Tobin: <b>9.15am – 2.00pm</b>	4	Oil Lorry Gates	Enter through: The Blue Yard: Yellow Fire Doors on the Downstairs Corridor.
Sen. Infs.	Mrs. Hughes: <b>9.05am – 1.50pm</b> -----	2 + 3	Main Front	Exactly as above.
	Ms. Blake Lynch: <b>8.55am – 1.40pm</b>		Main Front	Exactly as above.
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Ms. Murtagh: <b>9.15am – 3.00pm</b> -----	10	Main Front	Enter through: The Blue Yard: Single Brown Door, proceed upstairs.
	Mrs. Cassidy <b>9.05am – 2.50pm.</b>	9	Main Front	----- Exactly as immediately above.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Ms. Moriarty <b>8.55am – 2.40pm.</b>	11	Oil Lorry Gates	Exactly as immediately above.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Mrs. Fox <b>8.55am – 2.40pm.</b>	New Block Orange	Oil Lorry Gates for both.	Enter through the Blue Yard, proceed to the Black Yard, then proceed to the door of the New Block, proceed upstairs.
	Mr. Kelly <b>9.05am – 2.50pm.</b>			----- Exactly as immediately above.
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. McKiernan: <b>9.15am – 3pm.</b>	New Block Blue	Via Sch. Hall Door	From the Church Yard, enter through the School Hall, keep to the right, walk ahead to the new block/ Blue Room.
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. Leavy: <b>8.55am – 2.40pm.</b>	12	Via Sch. Hall Door	From the Church Yard, enter through the School Hall, keep to the left & proceed up the stairs. At the top take a left.
	Ms. Dervan: <b>9.05am – 2.50pm.</b>	14	for both.	----- Exactly as immediately above but proceed further to the 'top' of the school.
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. Brennan: <b>9.15am – 3pm.</b>	New Block Yellow	Solo Entry at the Fatima Steps	From the Church Yard, please proceed along the left of the school building to the 'Fatima Steps'. Using the handrail descend directly into your classroom.
S+L Class	Mrs. Fitzgerald: These children arrive by taxi/ minibus. They will be welcomed as/when they arrive to the School Front Door accompanied by their Escort. <b>9am approx. – 2pm.</b>	16	Main School Front Door (Red)	I have contacted the Escorts to approach the Main School Front Door where the child/ren will be 'handed over' to an SNA and safely escorted directly from there to their classroom.

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Notes: Children must remain supervised by Parents/Guardians and socially distanced outside gates until 8:50am. *Children only* enter the school grounds in the mornings and proceed directly as outlined above. At dismissal time in the afternoon, children retrace their steps from their morning route. Parents/Guardians may collect children outside the school gates/over on the Fairgreen if Parents consent. Please discuss the going home plans with your child each morning. All Parents/Guardians are respectfully asked to show children by example the routine of standing at a social distance apart outside all exit points to maintain safety for all.

**\*\*\*\*\*NO CONGREGATION OF PERSONS PERMITTED AT ANY TIME\*\*\*\*\***

## Arrival at school

*Pupils should arrive between 8:55am & 9:15am each morning (as outlined in the previous grid for each class grouping) & proceed directly to their respective classrooms via the designated entrance gate/door and route. Pupils will not congregate closely or line up in the School/Church yard in the mornings.*

*To help with reducing the amount of traffic around the school gates, children are asked to walk/cycle/scoot to school, if it is at all possible with the understanding that Parent/Guardian supervision is afforded with this.* Please visit the An Taisce report 'Safe to School' at <https://greenschoolsireland.org/safe-to-school/> for ideas for safe access to school.

- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.
- Class teachers will be in their classrooms from 8:55 to receive their pupils.
- Other staff members (including Special Education Teachers, SNA's and the Principal) will be available outside and inside the building to receive the children and to direct them to their classrooms.
- If a child appears unwell on entering the classroom, the teacher/principal will discuss with the parent and ask the parent to take the child home immediately. This must be done in the interests of safety & protection of all other pupils & staff.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school grounds in the mornings.
- Messages for teachers can be sent to the school email: office@stannesnavan.ie, teacher email or by phoning the school office (046)9023039.

## End of School Day: Safe Exit of 78 Infants and 236 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils approximately:

- With the exception of Parents/Guardians of the Infant Class pupils, adults who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, must wait outside the school gates while maintaining social distancing at all times.
- This system will apply rain, hail or shine, so please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather! Our practice as heretofore of facilitating pupils in the School Hall/Yard Shelter on a rainy morning must cease immediately on NPHEA advice.

When the school day for a particular class is over, the following arrangements will apply:

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- Parents/Guardians of Junior Infants and Senior Infants ONLY will be allowed into the Blue Yard at 1.40/1.50 & 2pm to safely collect their child. We appeal to the adults to please adhere to the times given so as to socially distance this discharge from school. Teachers will safely hand over your child to you Parents/Guardians at the Yellow Doors off the Blue Yard and exit via the Oil Lorry Gate.
- The teachers of 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes will bring the children to the Parent/Guardian collection point (School Gates/Church Yard as per morning drop-off) and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. Staff will understand that a Parent/Guardian will collect the pupil unless we have it messaged otherwise directly to us in writing. This is a Child Protection issue and we retain duty of care for all children until you arrive to collect them ensuring their safety. Please help us with this issue and collect your child promptly every day to avoid congestion and unnecessary delays to teachers returning to clean their classrooms.
- **Please do not congregate at the entry/exit points so as to minimise the risk of infection.**

### **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:

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult, at the front door, by a member of staff
- The adult who is collecting will be asked permission for staff to sign the child out
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

### **Other Responsibilities for Parents**

**Please ensure that you have these conversations with your child/ren and that they understand why these points are critical going forward:**

- Parents must ensure that all of the child's equipment/books/copies etc. are clearly labelled with the child's name as equipment cannot be shared.
- Parents must ensure that their child knows and uses the protocols around effective and independent hand washing, coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.
- Parents must ensure that all books/lunch boxes/water bottles are sanitised using alcohol wipes before being placed in the child's school bag.
- A separate pencil case is required to be left at school and a separate one for home use.
- Water bottles are to be filled **before** coming to school every morning. Our water font drinking facilities are suspended with immediate effect.
- Children are to go to the bathroom **before** they leave home for school daily.
- Children are to wash their hands **before** leaving for school.

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## Signage

St. Anne's Loreto P.S. will be displaying various age-appropriate signage images and multiple reminders outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

These key poster messages will be displayed in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and bathrooms as well as entry/exit points to support effective hand-washing, sneeze and cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene.

Some markers will also be evident outside the building to identify socially distanced spacing.

We must not become immune to these critical messages as our collective health and safety depends on them being truly acted out in reality. All adults must lead by example.

## Lunches

Parents/guardians are asked to make sure that children bring their own lunches to school to avoid adults coming to the school during the day. Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children at any time. Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice.

Please see the school's Healthy Eating Policy for more information/suggestions about healthy school lunch options.

## School Uniform:

- Children's uniforms (including tracksuits) must be clean and washed regularly, as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols.
- As per policy, the full school uniform should be worn every day, except for PE day, when the school track suit should be worn. The class teacher will inform pupils & parents about *other* days when the track suit should be worn.
- Pupils coats, if needed, will be placed on the backs of their chairs. Adults please retain gloves, hats etc. yourselves to offer to the child en route home in bad weather.
- ***It is more important than ever that all clothing be clearly labelled, as a "Lost and Found" box cannot be facilitated.*** Unidentified/unclaimed lost property will be disposed of promptly.
- 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 directly from school. They should not be worn during after-school activities.
- *It may be advisable that pupils have a 'spare' uniform. Most uniform items are*

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*generic and are available widely at a very reasonable cost.*

## **Children who should not attend school:**

In accordance with DES & HSE guidelines, children in the following categories, 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 or presenting with a high temperature
- If parents are in any doubt about whether their child should attend school, please keep the child at home & seek medical advice.

**Children in High Risk Groups:** Parents should seek advice from their GP/Specialist if they think their child is in a high-risk group. They must make an informed decision if it is safe for their child to return to school. They should inform the principal of the advice given. If there are any parents out there who have concerns about their child's health, please contact your medical professional and relay the advice to the Class Teacher/Principal by email or telephone.

Our school attendance strategy is set-aside for the time being so as to respect parent discretion regarding their child's health and their ability to attend school. **However punctuality is critical as always to ensure learning and safe entry is maximised for all.**

## **Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school**

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/or the Special Education Teacher [SET], where relevant) will provide suggested activities and class work to support the child's learning at home to the Parents/Guardians.

## **In-person Supplementary Programme to support the Education or Care Needs of Pupils with Complex Needs during a Phase of School Closure** – currently running until 11/4/'21.

Guidance for Parents/Guardians on this initiative has been circulated on 8/2/'21 on our Aladdin Connect communication system and posted on our website [www.stannesnavan.ie](http://www.stannesnavan.ie) Staff have also been made aware of this initiative. Parents/Guardians have been invited to contact the school if they have any queries relating to this programme and wish for arrangements to be put in place for their child/ren to avail of and benefit from this support.

## **Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class**

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If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, **pupil confidentiality will be maintained** however:

- The parents of all children in the particular class will be notified
- Public health advice will be sought and followed

**Use of Face masks:** It is currently not recommended in Ireland for children under 13 to wear face masks as a mitigation strategy against the transmission of the coronavirus. If this advice changes, we will inform Parents/Guardians accordingly.

If a Parent wishes their child to wear a mask or visor, this will be respected.

Parents are asked to wear a mask when dropping/collecting their child/ren each day.

## **Personal Equipment**

- It is requested that all children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. 2 pencil cases are requested for each child, 1 to remain in school and a separate 1 for home.
- It is further requested that *all items* are clearly labelled with the child's name for ease of identification.
- Teachers have sourced 'Magazine File'/basket type storage for each child to hold their individual materials on their desks separate from other adjacent children's materials.

## **Shared Equipment**

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with anti-bacterial fluids/wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals, supervised by staff, before these materials are further shared to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

## **Children's Learning Spaces**

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.

### **Junior Infants to Second Class**

It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors so there is currently no requirement for children from Junior Infants to Second Class inclusive to maintain a physical distance within their Class Bubble. Pods/groups to a maximum of 6 pupils will also be created within these classes as is usual for effective teaching and learning.

### **Third Class to Sixth Class**

Children from Third Class to Sixth Class will be arranged in Pods within their Class Bubbles, with a maximum of 4 pupils per Pod. As far as possible, each Pod will be at least 1 metre distance from the next Pod and each pupil will be 1m distant from the next pupil. Pupils will

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be asked to help maintain this seating plan with the help of coloured floor stickers used to identify the recommended location for furniture legs.

These pods (for all classes) will remain constant for all of term 1, therefore it is imperative that pupils display maturity and ensure they get along with everyone close by and not cause upset. Our Code of Behaviour has been reinforced to reflect this element.

- Only resources which can be easily cleaned will be used. Toys and materials which are difficult to clean (e.g. dress up clothes or soft toys) will have limited/if any use during this ongoing Covid-19 emergency.
- Pupils will hand sanitise before and after using any materials.
- Pupils will have limited use of shared materials/resources at times within their Pod only.
- Break times will be phased, with clearance time observed before yards are reused.
- Additional time will be spent by the hygiene/cleaning staff in cleaning the school, throughout the day and every afternoon/evening.

### **Doors and Windows**

Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common & frequently touched surfaces.

To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible, and will be opened while children are taking breaks in the playground.

### **Office**

We have an online payment system via Aladdin Connect, that minimises the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/Guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe by arranging for online payments through this App on their device.

**\*\*\*Parents please check via your Aladdin Connect App. that we have up to date contact numbers for you from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and additional others (emergency contacts) to make contact with you in the event that your child falls ill while in our care. You can check this detail yourself on your device and change it yourself or notify us immediately if the number has changed. It is critical that we can contact you immediately. Please make this issue an immediate priority. Please ensure for term 2 and thereafter we have up to date contact details for you at all times.**

Children will not be sent to the Secretary's/Caretaker's Office or to other rooms to deliver messages.

As far as possible, staff members will not enter the Office and will speak with the Secretary at the Foyer/ Reception area.

### **Photocopying**

Any staff member who uses the photocopier should clean it down after use with the wipes provided. Staff are requested to use the same photocopier as often as possible.

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## **Yard**

There will be 2 'little break' slots daily of 10 minutes each allowing time between each for the yards to clear. The same arrangement will apply to the 2 lunch breaks daily.

Each class bubble will have access to the yard during their allotted break times. The yard will be divided into separate zones for each class bubble.

There will be no more than 2 classes in each yard with a third class in the Black Yard for 1 'Little Break' and 1 'big break' every day, as we have 13 classes in this school to be accommodated.

Yards will be supervised by all teaching and non-teaching staff as heretofore, organised in 2 separate teams. Teachers will use the hand bell in addition to the electric bell to alert pupils that yard time is at a close.

As limited 'lining up' is permitted at any time and only at a social distance, pupils will be asked to 'freeze' when yard time is over and the class nearest the entry doors will be guided firstly to file smartly towards the building, socially distanced, when their class is called. Their teacher/SNA will accompany them promptly back to class.

Following this the next class can safely exit the yard in a similar manner, maintaining the integrity of the class bubbles.

Only when the yard is totally cleared can the next classes exit to the yard, with the Basketball Court area getting priority.

## **Special Education Support**

Our Special Education Teaching Support will be provided by a withdrawal approach, so as to maintain the integrity of the 'Pods' from a class. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of consistent class pods for all of term 1, aligned to the pupils remaining in their consistent pods for all of this term.

- Withdrawal Support: Where children 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 in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending.
- A form of in-class support will be provided in the junior classes. Movement among stations will be kept to a minimum, and children will remain in their own seat throughout the lesson.

## **PPE/FIRST AID**

Staff will wear face coverings at all times with surgical grade masks EN 14683 available & additional PPE as needed, in accordance with current HSE/NPHET/DES advice. Staff who are attending to particular care needs, dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves, aprons, face masks/face

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shields and look after the child as heretofore. All SNAs and SET teachers have been provided with Surgical masks and PPE in the event of working closely with a child (within recommended 2m distance). **Again it is vital that Parents/Guardians are contactable immediately in the event that the child needs to be excused home or to seek further medical advice.**

### **Teacher Absence and Substitution**

In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, SET staff *may* be re-deployed to teach the class. *It is not appropriate for any class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes.* Therefore, if all other options have been exhausted, it *may* not be possible for the class to attend school on that day. In such a scenario, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

### **Substitute Teachers and SNAs**

A copy of the Covid-19 Response Plan will be provided to each substitute teacher/SNA. Substitute staff will be required to complete a Pre-return to the Workplace Form before they enter the school and will be asked to confirm that they have engaged with the online Induction Training.

### **PE**

Following professional advice, our School Hall is deemed inappropriate for P.E. activities during this Covid-19 pandemic period. Weather permitting, PE will take place outdoors. To the greatest extent possible, PE will sometimes take place without the use of shared equipment. When equipment is used/shared, a sanitising system is in place overseen daily by a member of school management.

### **Extra-curricular Activities/Homework Club**

As it is not recommended that children from different class bubbles participate in shared activities at the same time, sports activities and homework club are suspended until further notice. This is to minimise any risk of the spread of infection between staff and 1 class with another.

It has been decided that plans for Swimming lessons for 2020/'21 will be suspended.

No infant pupils should be on the premises after 2pm sharp and no 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils should be present after 3pm sharp. Indeed many classes will be discharged from 1.40pm/1.50pm and 2.40/2.50pm to avoid congestion at the exits. Please support us to facilitate the safe and timely exit of all 320 pupils daily with your collection routine secured well in advance and communicated to your child each morning to avoid child upset and teacher delays.

### **Parent/ Teacher Meetings**

Parent/Teacher Meetings took place via phone/ Zoom in Term 1. If additional meetings are required these can be arranged electronically or by phone.

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## **Staffroom**

All staff members should maintain a physical distance of 2 metres when they are not engaged in teaching e.g. when they are using the staff room and arriving to work. Face coverings should be worn before and after eating/drinking.

Staff meetings will be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing.

Staff members may bring their own cups, bottles, cutlery, etc. to school however our dishwasher has various reliable programmes from which to choose, including a 70 degree intensive cycle which is the recommended twice-daily routine programme to sterilise utensils.

## **Hygiene and Cleaning**

Multiple hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom, support rooms etc.

All pupil bathrooms are equipped with warm water facilities, soap dispensers, warm-air hand dryers, disposable paper towel dispensers, bins and handwashing instructions. Perspex screens are installed between the sink units in all bathrooms (shared bathroom blocks and ensuite facilities) so as to minimise/avoid any droplets dispersing.

Again signage will be readily displayed on floors and walls in these bathroom areas to promote best hygiene practices and to remind all using these facilities to maintain social distancing. Teachers will draw their pupil pod's attention to these critical but practical information pointers.

Hand hygiene, coughing & sneezing etiquette will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message from home.

In accordance with the DES guidelines, as well as the usual daily, reputable, contract cleaning company who are granted this contract by our Board of Management after hours, particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, door plates, light switches, handrails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities also throughout the building, with additional cleaning hours awarded during the day. This personnel have been requested to familiarise themselves with the relevant training.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work station area daily. These cleaning materials will be stored safely in a locked cupboard in the classroom. Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day. Staff will also supervise pupils' cleaning of their own tables/work station daily before bedtime.

## **Teaching and Learning**

As a staff, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since 12<sup>th</sup> March (Lockdown 1) until 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and since December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020. Due to being less than

## St. Anne's Loreto P.S. Document for the Re-Opening of our School.

mid-way through the school year, it was important for teachers to proceed with the curriculum for each class to minimise gaps in your child's learning. All supports were readily offered to all pupils and their families from class teachers, SET staff were appointed and Management throughout the closure. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Distance Learning for all concerned and we recognise the challenges that Distance Learning presented for all families.

Teaching staff and Management have noted the great efforts of most families to follow the guidance and school work provided by teachers during the recent school closure Jan. – March '21. We thank all such families for their attention to supporting us and supervising their child's learning.

It is also observed however that some pupils may not have performed at their best during this time. Where Parent/Guardian communication was provided this will be taken into account. Where communication was absent this will also be noted.

End of year reports will be issued as normal.

### **Distance Learning**

We are aware that we *may* need to revert to Distance Learning in the event of a further shutdown, children have been taught how to use the Seesaw app in term1 and have forwarded parts of their homework remotely during this process.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March a gradual re-introduction to classes will resume for the junior standards with less emphasis on homework for the initial period. This is to allow families to re-adjust their home schedules to facilitate this progress and to ease the pressure of the return from the home perspective. Some reading/Active homework will be suggested as an option if wished.

Likewise this approach will be adopted for the senior standards from their return date (currently proposed as 15/03/'21).

### **Training**

All staff have been requested to familiarise themselves with the relevant training for their positions. Links have been forwarded to staff who hold the additional roles of:

Lead-Worker Representative (LWR); Escort and Special Needs Assistant.

Checklists have been forwarded for each role according to the DE Covid-19 Response Plan Document:

Appendix 8: LWR. Appendix 9: Cleaning.

### **Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme**

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Support for school staff wellbeing will be provided by Department Support Services including the PDST and CSL, as well as by the HSE's Health Promotion Team.

An Occupational Health Strategy is in place as a supportive resource for staff in schools. The aim of the Occupational Health Strategy is to promote the health and wellbeing of employees in the workplace, with a strong focus on prevention. Family members aged 18 years and over are also eligible for such supports.

The Occupational Health Strategy comprises the Employee Assistance Service and the Occupational Health Service. The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) is provided by Spectrum Life under the logo of 'Wellbeing Together: Folláinne Le Chéile'.

A free-phone confidential helpline 1800 411 057 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and staff members are encouraged to make use of the service if & when the need arises for them personally and/or their families.

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

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 that will be implemented:

- Staff will bring the issue promptly to the attention of the office by means of a secure, internal communication system. Teacher and the remaining pupils will remain in class undisturbed.
- A nominated member of the school management team will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area (sick bay) via the most direct route by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately.
- The front foyer will be the main designated isolation area with another, if needs be located in the former downstairs printer room. Seating will be two metres apart. Supervision will be provided by a member of the school staff, at a safe distance.
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. S/he should wear the mask if in a common area with other people, in the isolation area & while exiting the premises.
- The child who is displaying symptoms must be immediately excused from school and brought home by parents, who will call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home.
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if

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they cannot immediately go home.

- The child presenting with symptoms should 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 bin provided.
- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
- If they are 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 prompt and appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and classroom work areas involved.

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 shall be followed rigorously.

**This Plan is a *live document* that will be reviewed regularly & amended as required to ensure compliance with best practice & the most up-to-date advice from the relevant authorities. The most recent '*live*' version of the plan will be available to view on the school website ([www.stannesnavan.ie](http://www.stannesnavan.ie)) under the Covid 19 tab.**

August 2020 + March '21.

Useful links:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/472f64-covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-and-advice/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a0bff-reopening-our-primary-and-special-schools/>

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/>

### Our Speech and Language Class.

Here in St. Anne's Loreto P.S. we host a specialised setting for pupils diagnosed with Developmental Language Delay. This Language Class is a joint venture between the Department of Health and the Department of Education & Skills. The HSE employs the Speech & Language Therapist while the DES employs the teacher and the SNA (if sanctioned).

The therapist visits for two mornings in the week generally on Tuesday and Thursday. As the Therapist is working on alternative duties for the remainder of the week within the community the Principal of St. Anne's Loreto P.S. will reserve the right to request an HSA 'Return to Work Form' to be completed before resuming duties here in the school. This is to ensure that no risk of cross contamination or infection may be possible especially in the event of such Therapists being redeployed for alternative duties in the community. Assurance has

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been forwarded to our Board of Management from our Dept. of Education and Public Health that no step-down period is required between community duties and school support for such staff on consecutive days. Additional documentation may also be required.

As the Therapist is employed by the HSE, he/she is considered a visitor here conducting essential work. The DES Covid-19 Response Plan states:

All staff, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors have a responsibility both as individuals and collectively to have due regard for their own health and safety and that of others and to assist with the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Plan and associated control measures.

Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal.

The prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a crucial step in restricting the spread of the virus and protecting the health and safety of the individuals themselves and other staff, contractors and visitors at the workplace.

One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread. The risk of spreading the infection once introduced exists in all interpersonal interactions; student-student, teacher-teacher and teacher-student and must be managed in all settings. A range of essential control measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, pupils, parents and visitors as far as possible within the school. The control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis. It is critical that staff, pupils, parents and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements. Staff should note that they have a legal obligation under Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to comply with health and safety requirements and to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and other parties within the workplace.

### Phased Entry and Exit Schedule

#### September 2020

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Gate</u>	<u>Entry/ Exit Route</u>	<u>Entry Time</u>	<u>Exit Time</u>
Junior Infants	Ms. Tobin	Oil Lorry Gates	Through Yellow door on blue yard	9.15am	2pm
Senior Infants	Mrs. Hughes	Front Gate	Through Yellow door on blue yard	9.05am	1.50pm
Senior Infants	Ms. Blake-Lynch	Front Gate	Through Yellow door on blue yard	8.55am	1.40pm
Speech and Language Unit	Mrs. Fitzgerald	Front Gate	Main Front Door	Depending on bus	2pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Mrs. Cassidy	Front Gate	Through blue yard, in brown door and upstairs	9.05am	2.50pm

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			(old building)		
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Ms. Murtagh	Front Gate	Through blue yard, in brown door and upstairs (old building)	9.15am	3pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Ms. Moriarty	Oil Lorry Gates	Through blue yard, in brown door and upstairs (old building)	8.55am	2.40pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Mrs. Fox	Oil Lorry Gates	Through double gate on blue yard, through small door to black yard, in through glass doors and upstairs	8.55am	2.40pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Mr. Kelly	Oil Lorry Gates	Through double gate on blue yard, through small door to black yard, in through glass doors and upstairs	9.05am	2.50pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. McKiernan	Hall Doors leading to & from the Church Yard.	Through the red side door, through hall, through double door on RHS, proceed to new building	9.15am	3pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Ms. Dervan	Hall Doors leading to & from the Church Yard.	Through the red side door, through hall, through double door on RHS, proceed upstairs to old building	9.05am	2.50pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. Leavy	Hall Doors leading to & from the Church Yard.	Through the red side door, through hall, through double door on RHS, upstairs to old building	8.55am	2.40pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	Mr. Brennan	Direct Entry to Class at the 'Fatima Steps' in the Church Yard.	Line up at steps outside Karen's office, in through the fire door directly to classroom	9.15am	3pm

Signed: Máire O' Donoghue.  
Chairperson Board of Management.

Clíodhna O' Bric.  
Principal.

19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 and further reviewed and revised on 26<sup>th</sup>/02/'21. Latest update on: 02/03/2021.