



Greystones Educate Together Covid-19 Whole School Plan

Updated on 20th August, 2021

This whole-school plan has been devised to help safeguard our entire school community. We thank you for taking the time to read this plan and to put in place any procedures requested.

Thank you.

Key facts for Parents:

COVID – 19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways and is caused by a new virus called the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets and via touching of contaminated surfaces. To infect you, it has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). If you come into close contact with someone who is shedding the virus and who is coughing or sneezing or if you touch - with your hands - surfaces or objects that someone who has the virus has coughed or sneezed on, and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes without having washed your hands thoroughly you may contract the virus.

As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it, so it is important for us all to keep up to date and to make sure we are using the most current guidance available.

- **Information for Parents:**
- **Return to School information and videos**
- **<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>**
- **Multilingual Advice for Parents**
- **<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0cf46-resources-and-materials-for-parent-guardians-and-for-students-on-returning-to-school-multi-lingual/>**
- **School Transport Information**
- **<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/64a88-school-transport/>**

COVID-19 can be a mild or severe illness. Severe illness is much more common in older people (especially older than 70) and in people vulnerable for other reasons. Severe illness is much less common in children and young adults in good health, however, this virus can be contracted and/or spread by people of all ages. The new Delta variant is proving to be more easily transmitted and, therefore, vigilance is to be maintained to the highest standards for the foreseeable future.

The most common symptoms of Covid 19 are:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above).
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- loss or change in your sense of smell or taste
- Aches and Pains

Other less common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- sore throat
- headaches
- runny or stuffy noses
- feeling sick
- upset stomach

Typically, symptomatic people appear to be most infectious for other people in the early days of contracting the virus, after symptoms begin. Infection can also spread from people in the day or two before they get symptoms and it can spread from some people who get an infection but have no symptoms or such mild symptoms that they take little notice of them (asymptomatic spread). People are no longer infectious towards other people 14 days after they have developed symptoms.

Best practice for us all:

Hand Hygiene

In order to prevent the spread of the virus, thorough hand-washing is required after the following:

- if you have been in contact with someone who is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms
- If you have coughed or sneezed
- Entering and exiting a vehicle
- if you were in contact with someone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing)
- if you have been on public transport,
- if you have been in a crowd (especially an indoor crowd)
- if you have handled animals or animal waste
- If you move from one room to another room or from inside to outside areas
- If you have had physical contact with a child from another group
- if your hands are dirty
- when you arrive and leave buildings including your home or anyone else's home
- After using the toilet
- Before and after preparing food
- Before and after eating your own food – breaks/lunches
- After assisting a child to use the toilet or using the toilet ourselves
- After contact with bodily fluids (runny nose, saliva, blood)
- After cleaning tasks

We are all required to:

practice good respiratory hygiene: that is, when coughing and sneezing, cover the mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

maintain social or physical distancing: that is, leave at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance between ourselves and other people where possible, and where we will be in a 2 meter proximity of other, to wear a protective mask.

refrain from handshaking

avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Role Of GETNS Team:

The GETNS team will complete multiple lessons on correct hygiene, lining up safely, hand sanitising, staying within pods/bubbles etc. with the children during the first weeks back in school, as we did last year. We will do so in a child friendly and as gentle a manner as possible.

Further staff duties:

Staff will not return to or attend school in the event of the following:

- If a team member lives with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- If they have travelled outside of Ireland to a place which the government has deemed a high risk country requiring mandatory quarantine, until after such quarantine and testing has been completed.

Staff members will cooperate with any public health personnel and their school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice given in the event of a case or outbreak in their school.

Staff members will undergo any Covid19 testing that may be required as part of mass or serial testing, as advised by public health

Staff members will be encouraged to download the HSE Covid 19 tracker app for contact tracing purposes both within and out of school setting.

Staff members will be required to fill in the updated pre-return to work form within three days of return to work date.

Role of Parents:

It is important that parents have a clear understanding of the benefits and risk of childcare and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in a childcare centre, school or in the home. That being said, please rest assured that we are taking every possible precaution to minimise the risk and the safety and health of your children is of paramount importance to us, as we know it is to you. By working in partnership with you, we have the best chance of success, so thank you all for supporting these requirements.

Parents are obliged to cooperate with any public health officials, and with the school, for contact tracing purposes and they are required to follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak within the school.

The following are protocols that are put in place to safeguard the health and safety of each other. We are all expected to abide by them. If serious breaches of safety measures occur, the board of management and/or the police may be informed.

Under no circumstances is a child to attend school if:

- **the child is exhibiting any symptoms of Covid 19**
- **the child has a temperature, is coughing, who has been vomiting or has diahorrea.**
- **If the child has travelled outside of the country in the 14 days prior to their return to school, all advice from the government must be strictly adhered to.**
- **If the child has been in contact with any family member and or other person who has Covid19.**
- **If the child is living with someone who is displaying any signs or symptoms of Covid 19.**

Arrival and departure procedures for children and parents:

- **Parents/Guardians are kindly requested to arrive on time for leaving in and collecting their child. Time keeping is paramount in order for our logistical plan to work, as you will see below. So thank you all, in advance, for this.**
- We request that only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19, or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised, are to drop off and collect children.
- Any parent who is in a high risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves. (This of course is at the discretion of the individual parent/carer/grandparent) but we would highly recommend that you make alternative arrangements where possible or to contact the school principal for support in safeguarding your own health. For example, if a parent is in a high risk category, the principal will try to offer an alternative drop off/collection procedure to limit your exposure to others. Please email FAO 'Helen McClelland' to contact@greystoneset.ie if you have a concern around this.
- Staggered arrival times and collection times may be put in place where necessary (Please see below). These times are also subject to change at late notice.
- If parental accompaniment is requested past the school gate, these parents are kindly asked to proceed immediately to their child's Line Up area. Once a child is at their line up point, parents are required to exit the campus as promptly as possible, following the signs for pedestrian entry and exit. All people over the age of 13 entering the school grounds are required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth and we sincerely thank you for facilitating this requirement. This excludes some of our pupils who may turn 13 and are in 6th class, over the course of this time period. These children will continue to be permitted onto the school premises without wearing a mask.
- **It is a requirement that no adults congregate in groups inside or around the school campus.**
- If a parent has more than one child, please travel together as a family unit to your various drop off points, leaving the child with the latest drop off point to last.
- Home times will be staggered for classes- please see table below for your child's specific class arrangements.
- All adults and children are required to leave the yard immediately after collection time. Please do not permit children from different families and class bubbles to play together at drop off or collection times.

- All communication by parents with school staff and vice versa must be conducted either by phone or online.
- At arrival and departure times of children, social distancing is to be maintained by children, parents and staff members
- Please do no gather/mix in groups with parents/children/staff members from other class levels
- Markings on the ground will advise as to safe waiting zones.

Please see our current arrival and departure procedures below

CLASS	SCHOOL ARRIVAL	SCHOOL DEPARTURE
JUNIOR INFANTS	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Proceed to walk your child up the back steps into the Junior yard. Line up on markings according to class teacher.</p> <p>A – Teacher Jacqui</p> <p>B – Teacher Julie</p> <p>C – Teacher Keith</p> <p>Please await collection from yard by teachers at 9:00 Parents then exit up steps and out the pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians enter the school via the pedestrian gate at the front of school (Templecarrig side). Please stand on the path in front of the parked cars on the markings, or at a safe distance along the footpaths and await your child's class who will line up along the picnic benches and front of the school.</p> <p>Exit out pedestrian gate (school garden side).</p> <p>Jacqui's Class 13:40</p> <p>Julie's Class: 13:40</p> <p>Keith's Class: 13:40</p> <p>Please note from 30th August – 8th September, Junior Infant collection time is 12 noon. From Thursday 9th Sept, Junior infant collection time is 13.40</p>

<p>SENIOR INFANTS</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Proceed to walk your child up the back steps into the Junior yard. Please await collection from yard by teachers at 8:50.</p> <p>Line up on markings according to class teacher.</p> <p>A – Teacher Rebecca</p> <p>C – Teacher Fiona</p> <p>Exit up steps and out the pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via the pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side) for collection</p> <p>13:30 Rebecca's</p> <p>13:30 Fiona's</p> <p>Please stand on the path on the markings in front of the parked cars and await your child's class who will line up along the picnic benches.</p> <p>Exit out pedestrian gate (school garden side).</p>
<p>1ST</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Walk to number 11 (Emma) and X for (Kate)</p> <p>09:00 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>After dropping child, please follow arrows back past playground and around the side passage and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:40. Proceed to Zone B (Emma) and Zone C (Kate).</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>

<p>2ND</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate.</p> <p>Walk to extension double doors and line up on markings.</p> <p>09:00 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>After dropping child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:40. Proceed to morning line up area.</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>
<p>3RD</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Walk to number 11 (Aoife O’Sullivan) and X (Aoife Shelton) for 08:55 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>After dropping child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:35 Proceed to Zone B (Aoife O’Sullivan) and Zone C (Aoife Shelton).</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>
<p>4TH</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Walk to number 4 (Claire) and 14 (Marie-Ruth) for 09:10 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>After dropping child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:50 Proceed to zone A (Marie-Ruth) and zone D (Claire).</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>

	<p>through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	
5TH	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Walk to number 14 (Sean), Line X (Paula)</p> <p>08:55 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>After dropping child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:35 Proceed to Zone A (Sean), Zone B (Paula)</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>
6TH	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Children will be collected by class teachers at</p> <p>08:50</p> <p>Ciara's – Line 1</p> <p>Emmett's – Line 4</p> <p>Tommy's - Line 11</p> <p>If parents are entering with child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:30</p> <p>Collections from</p> <p>Zone A – Ciara</p> <p>Zone B – Emmett</p> <p>Benches at extension double door - Tommy.</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>

NAOMI'S CLASS	09.10 Please enter via special setting entrance	Senior Infants: 13.50 1st-3rd: 14.50 Via special setting entrance
Angelina/Grace's Class	09.10 Please enter via special setting entrance	14.50 Via special setting entrance

Additional Important Information:

- Classroom windows will be opened as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (break times and at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. Our ventilation procedures are an important part of our C19 response plan and are followed carefully at all times. Each school is also expecting CO2 monitors to be delivered throughout early September so that constant monitoring of air quality can take place. Please dress your child for school with our ventilation measures in mind (long sleeves).
- Sanitiser will be provided to each child prior to entering the building by their class teacher, and our sanitising systems are in line with current health advice.
- **If a child appears unwell** on entering the classroom, the child will gently and subtly be escorted from the classroom to a specially prepared, child friendly area, away from their peers. Non-contact thermometers have been purchased by the school and we would like your support in using these, if we feel it is necessary, to ensure we safeguard your child and his/her peers. We know this is not usual school procedure, so please let us know if you wish to opt out of this proposed strategy of safeguarding.
- Please be advised that whether temperature is checked or not, a child who has been brought to the isolation area will have displayed physical symptoms and will need to be collected asap.
- **It is vital that the emergency contact details for your child are current so that this plan can be followed in case we are unable to reach you directly.** Thank you.
- We have put in place a written cleaning schedule which is in line with current guidelines and is available to all cleaning staff. Our cleaning schedule has been enhanced to reflect the requirements issued to schools by the department of health and department of education.

We would be most appreciative if parents/guardians could please:

- ensure that all of their child's belongings are labelled with the child's name as belongings cannot be shared.

- ensure that their child knows and uses the protocols around coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.
- ensure that all items returning to school the following day are sanitised before being packed away in the child's school bag.
- fill water bottles at home
- encourage their child to use the bathroom before they leave home for school daily.
- ensure children wash their hands before leaving for school and immediately upon returning home from school.
- keep school clothing as clean as possible and, where possible, fresh clothes to be worn each day. If this is not possible, please allow 72 hours between wears of the same item of clothing. This does not apply to shoes and coats.
- dress child in velcro shoes if they cannot yet tie their own lace to minimise risk of transmission.

Further Infection/Transmission risk control measures

- **Any child who is unwell with a fever, has a cold, influenza or infectious respiratory symptoms or is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus is to stay at home.**

The child's parent/guardian must contact their GP and seek their guidance on referral for coronavirus testing. Please contact the school at 'contact@greystoneset.ie' or by phone, at 01-2871817, to inform us as soon as possible. All health information will be handled as discreetly as possible while we work to safeguard all.

- **Staff and pupils must not return to school in the event of the following:**
 1. If they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case
 2. If they live with somebody who has symptoms of the virus
 3. If they have travelled outside of Ireland and are required, by government, to take additional safety measures.

Protocols if a child becomes unwell or presents as a suspected case of COVID-19 while at school –

Staff members will be required to manage a suspected case in line with the protocol and training and with the advice as per Appendix 7: Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19, 'Covid 19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of Primary Schools and Special Schools', Version 4, August 2021.

Lead Worked Representative, Emmett Hickey, and Deputy Lead Worker Representative Aisling Donnelly will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases has been adhered to.

- The child will be brought to the specially prepared Isolation Area by a staff member, keeping at least 2 meters apart from the staff member. This is a child-friendly area and every effort will be made to reassure the child that this is a precautionary procedure.

- The parent/guardian of the child will be immediately contacted and requested to come to the school to take the child home and to contact their GP by phone. It is vital that the emergency contact details for your child are current so that this can be done as efficiently as possible.
- A mask will be given to the child to wear until he/she is picked up. The staff member will remain with the child until he/she is picked up.
- Dedicated waste bins will be in use for any utilised PPE by both the staff member and child.
- The staff member caring for the child in isolation should wear personal protective equipment i.e. face mask, visor, disposable apron and gloves. This will be demonstrated and revised for all children as part of our return to school lessons so that they will not be alarmed should this precaution be necessary.
- The child should gently be encouraged not to touch surfaces, people or any objects.
- Public transport of any kind should not be used by the parent to take the child home in interest of public health and safety.

If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school.

- The school will be contacted by local Public Health staff of the HSE to discuss the case. They will identify people who have been in contact with the person and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.
- A clear plan of action has been explained and provided to each staff member, so that they are aware of the procedures to be followed.
- An assessment will be undertaken by HSE public health staff.
- Advice on the management of children and staff who came into contact with the person will be based on this assessment and will be communicated in a prompt and clear fashion to the school community by Principal Helen McClelland or Deputy Principal Gráinne McGillicuddy.

Symptomatic people should self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19. Confirmed COVID-19 cases should continue to self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days and should not return to school until they are advised that it is safe to do so. Parents are required to fill in a return to school declaration form, via Aladdin, prior to their child returning. Close contacts of a confirmed case should be notified and go home if at work/school and restrict their movements for 14 days. They should not attend work/school during that time.

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 on specified dates. If there are any parents who have concerns about their child's health, please contact the school office at contact@greystoneset.ie to request support and guidance from Principal Helen McClelland and our Lead Worker Representative for Covid 19, Emmett Hickey.

Use of Face masks:

- It is currently not recommended in Ireland for children attending primary school to wear face masks as a mitigation strategy against the transmission of the coronavirus.

- If a parent wishes their child to wear a mask or a visor, they may do so. Please keep in mind that it is not advisable for a child to wear a mask for the duration of a school day.
- All staff members will be provided with multiple, medical grade face masks daily.

Children's learning spaces:

- All excess furniture has been removed from the classroom where possible so as to provide additional space for safe distancing to be implemented.
- Classrooms have been reconfigured to ensure a one metre distance between pupils, where possible, is maintained. Pupils will be organised into pods within the classroom. The information regarding pods etc will be issued by class teacher when school resumes. Pods can still socialise together, as long as safe distancing is maintained. Pods can be changed each term.
- Classes will be organised into bubbles.
- Resources that can be easily cleaned will be used and toys and materials that are difficult to clean e.g. dress up clothes or soft toys during this temporary Covid-19 emergency will not to be used. Cleaning of any shared equipment will be in line with most recent guidelines available in the Covid 19 Response Plan, Version 4, August, 2021, and in our school risk assessment document.
- Pupils will hand sanitise before and after using any materials.
- Significant additional time will be spent by staff members in order to ensure safe protocols are followed.

This plan was compiled in close consultation with DES and HSE guidelines, the Board of Management and staff members. Please note, this plan is a live, working document and is subject to change. Updates regarding changes to this plan will be communicated to parents and guardians as soon as possible.

Greystones Educate Together National School would like to thank all parents, guardians, staff and pupils for adhering to this plan.

Kindest regards and very best wishes to you all,

Helen McClelland, Principal

Gráinne McGillicuddy, Deputy Principal

Emmett Hickey, Designated Lead Worker Rep

Karen Flynn, BOM, Chairperson

John Callaghan, BOM, Treasurer

Caroline Winstanley, BOM Parent rep

Michael Browne, BOM Parent Rep

Derrick O'Sullivan, BOM community rep

Aisling Donnelly, BOM, Teacher Rep

