



Greystones Educate Together Covid-19 Whole School Plan

Updated on 31st August, 2020

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. 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. This information is available from the following links:

- HSE-HPSC: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- HSE Hub: <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- Department of Health: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

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. (See below)

The most common symptoms of Covid 19 are:

- Cough - this can be any kind of cough, usually dry but not always
- Fever - high temperature over 38 degrees Celsius
- Shortness of Breath
- Breathing Difficulties

- Lack of sense of smell.

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:

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
- 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 metres (6 feet) distance between ourselves and other people where possible.

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. We will do so in a child friendly and as gentle a manner as possible.

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 suggested procedures.

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 diarrhoea.
- If a child has been outside of the country in the 14 days prior to 31st August, and if that country is not on the current 'Green List', , they are not to attend school but must isolate until the 14th day of isolation has been completed.
- If the child has been in contact with any family member and or other person who has Covid19.

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. All people over the age of 13 entering the school grounds are required to wear a face covering and we sincerely thank you for facilitating this request.
- We strongly request that no adults linger in the yard area after children have been left at their line.

- 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
- Unless a prior arrangement has been made, for a specific purpose, with management, unfortunately, we are unable to allow parents or guardians to enter the school building at any time. Visitor safety measures will be required to be followed in accordance with our Risk Assessment plan. Thank you for your understanding of this.
- 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	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. Please await collection from yard by teachers at 9:00 . Parents then exit up steps and out the pedestrian gate (Templecarraig side) .	Enter the school via the pedestrian gate (Templecarraig side) . Please stand on the path in front of the parked cars on the markings and await your child's class who will line up along the picnic benches. Exit out pedestrian gate (school garden side) . Jacqui's Class 12.00 Julie's Class: 12.15 (We will swap these times for week 2)

<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>Exit up steps and out the pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via the pedestrian gate (Templecarraig side) for collection</p> <p>at 13.30 Aisling's</p> <p>13.35 Rebecca's</p> <p>13.40 Fiona's</p> <p>Please stand on the path 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 (Keith) and X for (Aoife)</p> <p>09:10 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>Parents please proceed up outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14.50. Proceed to zone B (Keith) and zone C (Aoife).</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. Walk to number 4 (Esther) and 14 (Sinead) for</p> <p>09:10 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>Parents please proceed up outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14.50. Proceed to zone A (Sinead) and zone D (Esther).</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 (Luke) and X (Paula) for 09:20 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>Parents please proceed up outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 15:00. Proceed to zone B (Luke) and zone C (Paula).</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 09:20 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>Parents please proceed up outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 15:00. 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>5TH</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Walk to number 4 (Sean), number 11 (Emmett) and number 14 (Tom) for 08:50 collection by teacher in main yard.</p> <p>Parents please proceed up outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:30. Proceed to zone A (Tom), zone B (Emmett) and zone C (Sean).</p> <p>After collecting child please follow arrows past extension mural, up outside steps and exit through middle gate (Waverly).</p>
<p>6TH</p>	<p>Enter the school via the main Lidl gate. Children walk straight to class for 09:00</p> <p>If parents are entering with child, they proceed up the outside steps and exit via pedestrian gate (Temple Carrig side).</p>	<p>Enter the school via main Lidl gate for collection at 14:40. Proceed to zone C (Ciara) and zone D (Jess).</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	Junior Infants:12.00 Senior Infants: 13.50 1st-3rd: 14.50 Via special setting entrance
SARAH'S CLASS	09.10 Please enter via special setting entrance	14.50 Via special setting entrance

Additional Important Information:

- Sanitiser will be provided to each child prior to entering the building by their class teacher.
 - **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 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 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
- 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 their child in velcro shoes if their child cannot yet tie their own lace to minimise risk of transmission.

Children who may have symptoms:

- **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 is strongly recommended to contact their GP and seek their guidance on referral for coronavirus testing. Please contact the school via our designated email address for any child displaying corona virus symptoms. This email account will be accessed only by the principal and deputy principal and information will be shared on a need-to-know basis, maintaining as much confidentiality as possible.

The email address designated for this purpose is: mychildshealth@greystoneset.ie

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

- 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 and/or disposable visor 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, disposable apron and gloves. This will be demonstrated to 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.
- Principal Helen McClelland and Designated Lead Worker Emmett Hickey will carry out an assessment of the incident which will form a significant part of the follow up actions.
- Principal Helen/Deputy Principal Grainne will inform the HSE in line with correct protocols.

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.

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. Close contacts of a confirmed case (their partner/family member 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 September 1st. 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 and our Lead Worker, Emmett Hickey.

The Minister of Health recently announced that the flu vaccine will be available free to all children aged between 2 and 12 in the coming weeks. The vaccine will be given as drops on the tongue. We are awaiting further information on this and will let you know as soon as we get an update. It is more than likely that the vaccine will be given in the schools. If this service is to be provided, your formal permission will be sought closer to the time and any additional information will be forwarded to you.

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 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.

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.
- Pupils will hand sanitise before and after using any materials.
- Significant additional time will be spent by the hygiene staff in cleaning the school.

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

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, Teacher Rep, BOM