

Gorey Educate Together National School

Kilnahue Lane
Carnew Road
Gorey
Co. Wexford
Y25 DX23



Tel: 053 9489662 Fax: 053 9489660 School Roll No: 20214H Registered Charity No: 20138684
E-mail: info@goreyeducatetogether.ie Web: goreyeducatetogether.ie
Principal: Raymond Swan Deputy Principal: Imelda Wright Assistant Principal I: Mairéad Jordan

20th August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following on from last week's letters, thank you for the various messages of support and encouragement for the school. The main additional general questions from families are addressed below.

Kind regards,

Raymond Swan
Principal

What happens if a child displays any symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day, (i.e. high temperature; cough; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties; loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste)?

- ✓ Staff will contact the child's parent/guardian, letting them know that the child needs to be collected from school.
- ✓ Staff will discreetly/without fuss move the child to one of the school's designated isolation/waiting areas, away from other pupils.
- ✓ Staff will advise the parent/guardian to inform their GP by telephone of the child's symptoms and to follow any advice from the GP on isolation, testing, return to school, etc.
- ✓ As a precaution, staff will clean the child's classroom table & chair, as well as the isolation/waiting area. (The children seated nearby are not sent home unless they themselves display symptoms.)

What happens if there is a diagnosed case of Covid-19 amongst pupils or school staff?

- ✓ The school principal will always fully and promptly cooperate with HSE Public Health and implement any action that they request.
- ✓ **"HSE Public Health will: inform any staff/parents or students who come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process; contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made; and advise on the appropriate action, on a case-by-case basis, that should be taken vis-à-vis the operation of the school."**

"It is not recommended that children attending primary school wear face coverings." *The Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Department of Education & Skills*

What happens if I do send my child to school wearing a face covering?

- ✓ If your child is already used to wearing a face covering for extended periods of time and they can safely/hygienically handle the covering by themselves and they can participate in lessons & activities while wearing a face covering, then no issue should arise at our school.
- ✓ Otherwise, if a parent decides to send the child to school in a face covering the issues that could arise include: Child begins to feel unwell, (parent would need to collect the child from the school.) Child needs help with the face covering, (school staff would not handle children's face coverings.) Child handles the covering unhygienically or lays it on classroom tables, playground benches, etc, (child would be reprimanded by school staff.) Child does not participate in lessons, (staff would intervene using usual strategies, and inform parents.)

Will the children continue to switch places from time to time?

- ✓ Yes, the teachers will sometimes make changes to the classroom Seating Plan, taking account of the children's learning as well as their social needs.

Has the school made changes as regards school bags, lunchboxes, lunch coverings or the children's clothes & shoes?

- ✓ No, the school has not made changes.
- ✓ Families can continue to make choices based on individual circumstances and preferences.
- ✓ We trust that, given the current public health situation, all of us – pupils, families & staff – will give even more attention than usual to keeping all of our school-related belongings clean every day.

Gorey Gaelscoil: The Gaelscoil are also changing their morning and afternoon drop-off/pick-up arrangements. Gorey Educate Together NS drivers no longer have any access to the grounds of the Gaelscoil.

Where possible, we encourage **walking & cycling** to school. For some families, it might work to drop-off or park away from the school and walking the last few hundred metres. (There is a pedestrian walkway beside Gorey Gaelscoil.)

School Website: Apologies, there are a few glitches with our website at present. This letter, along with last week's letters can be found by clicking 'Latest News.'



One of the 30 hand cleaning stations around the school, along with some signage/floor markings.



Signage and markings on the grounds of the school.