

Gorey Educate Together National School

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Principal: Raymond Swan Deputy Principal: Imelda Wright Assistant Principal I: Mairéad Jordan

25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The main additional general questions from families are addressed below.

Kind regards,

Raymond Swan
Principal

Where can I find accurate information about the reopening of Gorey Educate Together NS?

Please read the letters under "Latest News" on the school website.

These letters include visiting times this Thursday & Friday, new drop-off and pick-up times, pencil cases, storage boxes, etc.

Where can I find accurate information about the reopening of schools in general?

Please visit the official Government website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/>

(Includes short informational videos for children & parents.)

Can I send my child to school with sniffles & sneezes?

Yes, as per the latest advice on the Government website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/>

Runny nose or sneezing

"You do not need to restrict your child's movements if the only symptoms they have are:

- a runny nose
- sneezing

They can continue to go to school or childcare if these are the only symptoms they have."

"If your child also has a high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or over) or has any other common symptoms of coronavirus - isolate your child, phone your GP and restrict your movements."

"Most of the time, you do not need to phone your GP if a runny nose or sneezing are your child's only symptoms. Talk to your pharmacist instead."

"A runny nose or sneezing on their own are more likely to be symptoms of a cold or other viral infection."

Should my child bring Hand Sanitiser to school?

No, that isn't necessary.

There are 30 wall-mounted dispensers around the school, (by every door.)

Within all the classrooms there are also hand-washing facilities, along with bottled hand sanitiser.

(However, there is no ban on children bringing their own hand sanitiser to the school, provided that they can open/close it by themselves and they are not inclined to play with it or eat it.)

I would prefer to keep my child at home for the moment, as a general health precaution and/or for family reasons. Will the school provide a home programme?

No, the school is not in a position to provide a home programme.*

Staff will be fully focused on teaching and caring for the children who are attending school.

(The Government might provide some general support to you, such as a daily Television Show. Please ask the Department of Education directly.)

(School books that are paid for can be collected from us, by prior arrangement.)

Please keep the school informed of your decision.

* The school is providing home programmes for the very small number of children in the Very High-Risk category (serious heart & lung conditions, etc.) as per the guidance from the Department of Education & Skills.

I would prefer to keep my child at home long term. Will the school provide a home programme?

No, the school is not in a position to provide a home programme.

For long term arrangements for any child 6 years or older, families must register with Tusla for “Home Education.”

(In brief, this means that the parent takes formal responsibility for educating their children.)

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/information-for-parents-and-guardians/home-education-and-attending-non-recognised-schools/>

Please keep the school informed of your decision.

If my child gets sick later in the year (Covid-19, broken bone, chronic asthma, etc.) will the school provide a home programme?

Yes, we will give some guidance about schoolwork that can be completed at home.

We will prioritise absences over 2 weeks, related to significant illnesses or injuries. (Or over 1 week, in the case of recurring illnesses.)

Again, children who are sick (apart from some sniffles & sneezes) are not to attend school.

If HSE Public Health closes my child’s classroom or closes Gorey Educate Together, will the school provide a home programme?

Yes, our School Closure Plan would be reactivated, (like arrangements in April/May/June 2020.)



- ✓ *New health & safety training completed*
- ✓ *Classrooms ready*
- ✓ *Teachers & SNAs looking forward to welcoming children back to school*