



Plan for Re-opening of Bishop Galvin NS

September 2021

Key Points of Information and Underlying Principles

- There are 476 pupils enrolled in Bishop Galvin NS for 2021/2022. There are currently 18 class teachers, 9 Support Teachers and 11 SNAs, a secretary and a caretaker. A new autism class has opened this September. The school shares the grounds with Bishop Shanahan NS, who have similar pupil and staff numbers. The physical size of each classroom is approximately 70 square metres, and the average class size is 27 pupils.
- The school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated and updated in accordance with the most recent Covid-19 Response Plan from the Department of Education (August 2021), to ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care in as far as is possible in the current context.
- It is not possible to 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 sense of shared responsibility of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Key Points

- Aladdin Connect will be used for all school communication. On Monday morning, the class teacher will send a notification. If parents wish to communicate directly with the class teacher regarding their child, a reply can be sent via the Aladdin Connect app. It will not be possible for parents to drop into the school unannounced. Meetings with parents will continue to be via telephone or Zoom, where necessary.
- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system. Each class group will be its own bubble inside the building. We will continue to encourage social distancing at all times.
- Pupils wear their school uniform/tracksuit on assigned days. All pupils have their own hook for their coat inside/outside their classroom.
- All entry to BGNS pupils will be via main gate and gate close to bike rack i.e. gates on Templeogue Wood Rd.
- Each stream will have a specific door for entry/exit, which is supervised by a staff member. All pupils will be asked to sanitise their hands upon entry and exit.
- For school entry/exit, please details below:

Entry @9.00am: 3rd & 4th classes (9 classes) & siblings

Entry @9.10am: 5th & 6th classes (9 classes) (minus siblings)

***All pupils should be in school by 9.20am. School gates will be closed at this time.**



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Exit from 2.30pm: 3rd and 4th classes (with no siblings)

Exit from 2.40pm: 5th and 6th classes & siblings

- A member of staff will be at the school gates and parents will be requested to “drop and go” i.e. no access to the school grounds. **We ask that all parents wear a mask when a 2metre distance cannot be maintained, and do not congregate in groups around the vicinity of the school.**

9.00am (3 rd & 4 th & Siblings)	Entry/Exit Points		Exit is via the same doors. 3 rd & 4 th from 2.30pm 5 th & 6 th & Siblings from 2.40pm
	3 rd class door	3 rd classes	
	4 th class doors x 2	4 th classes	
	Reception	Siblings (5 th class) & NG	
	New building side	Siblings (6 th class)	
9.10am (5 th & 6 th)	Entry/Exit Points		
	New building (side)	6 th class & SG & JK	
	Reception	5 th classes	

- Hand sanitiser dispensers will be available at all entry points and in all classrooms and support rooms.

Arrival at school

- Pupils are encouraged to walk/cycle to school. If arriving in cars, it is recommended that the set down area is used, or cars are parked some distance away from the immediate vicinity of the school.
- For safety, each group should aim to arrive within the following timeframe:
Group A: 9.00am (3rd/4th classes & siblings)
Group B: 9.10am (5th /6th classes)

**All pupils should be in school by 9.20am. School gates will be closed at this time.*

We ask for adherence by all families with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating around school grounds at any one time will be minimised. Each pupil should enter the grounds through the BGNS gates and enter the building at their designated door. Pupils should go straight to their classroom.

- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school premises during morning drop-off.
- Children cannot be on the school premises before 9.00am, and should not congregate at the gate before this time.

End of School Day

- There should be no congregation at the school gates by adults who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day. Please arrange a place to meet your child close to the school. We ask that all adults wear a mask in the vicinity of the school.
- Children will exit through the same doors and gates as entered that morning. Parents should not enter the school grounds.
- Dismissal will begin @2.30pm (3rd & 4th class) and 2.40pm (5th & 6th classes & Siblings). This will take time, and we appreciate your cooperation and patience in advance.



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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

- The adult should phone the school in advance of arrival.
- 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. **A mask must be worn by all adults whilst in the school building.**
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- The child will be signed out digitally by the secretary.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Under no circumstances should pupils/staff attend school if feeling unwell and/or displaying **any** symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures which will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to collect their child as soon as possible.
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff (class teacher/support teacher). 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. The child's temperature will be taken and recorded.
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises, where necessary.
- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents to call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- 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 bag 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 appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The school will follow all HSE advice in relation to communication and actions regarding Covid-19. 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 should be followed, and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.



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Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories they should not attend school:

- Children who are generally unwell and/or require paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19 (within the last 14 days),
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19 (within the last 14 days),
- 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

If pupils have travelled outside of Ireland; parents are advised to consult and adhere to the latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel-<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b4020-travelling-to-ireland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

In the interests of safety for everyone in BGNS, their families and the community, parents will be requested to complete a Return to School form (via Google docs) for each child currently attending BGNS at least 3 days before school reopens.

As an additional safety measure, the school ask that if any household member is awaiting a Covid test due to symptoms, pupils should remain at home pending the outcome of the test.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in the school

If the school is notified that a person in the school has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, public health advice on communication and actions to be taken will be sought and followed. **Please note that school close contacts will be tested twice – on day 0 and day 10. If the test result is negative on day 10, the person can return to school – they don't need to wait until 14 days have elapsed.**

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 Support Teacher, where relevant) will provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents. Communication with parents will be via Aladdin Connect and Google Classroom will be used to support learning at home.

Supporting Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

It is recognised that pupils with SEN will require particular support at the time of transition back to school including supporting their well-being, reducing potential anxiety and planning learning experiences at their level.



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SET

Special Education Teaching will prioritise supporting pupils with complex needs. Support will be provided by withdrawal and in class (team teaching), where possible. The provision of support will be organised to ensure Support teachers/SNAs will work within a class stream.

- Where a Support teacher/SNA is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, staff members must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another. All staff members are required to wear a medical grade mask when working closely with pupils with SEN.
- Where SNAs support pupils from more than one class, time will be allocated per class bubble. Outside spaces will be used for movement breaks, where possible.
- Where children receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group. Groups will be restricted to a specific class stream, and class bubbles in as far as is possible.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending. Outside spaces will be used as often as possible for SET groups and for movement breaks with an SNA.

Personal Equipment

- It is requested that all children bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- All items should have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- Each child will have a "book box" in their classroom to store all of their belongings.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the curricular resource equipment. Wipe down of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection. All staff members have been provided with a wipe down pack.

Playgrounds

There will be 2 x 20 min breaks for each class during the school day. Break times have been staggered to reduce the number of children on each playground so that there is more space to play. Pupils will eat their lunch in their classroom before going outside. **Pupils should have appropriate coats for outside as they will go outside every day regardless of weather.** Each stream of 9/10 classes will have access to specific playgrounds during their allotted break times as follows:

- *2 x 3rd class playgrounds:* 2 classes per playground
- *Main playground divided in 2 sections:* 2/ 3 classes per section
- *Pitch divided in 2 sections:* 2/ 3 classes per section

Playgrounds will be supervised by class teachers, support teachers and SNAs working within those streams only. We will continue to encourage social distancing. The use of the pitch will be alternated between streams.

Children's lunch boxes and bottles should be washed with hot soapy water every day.
No items, including swapping cards, should be brought to playground.



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PPE

Masks must be worn by staff at all times inside the school building. Outside, face masks are worn when 2m distancing is not possible.

There is no recommendation for primary pupils to wear face coverings. However, the school will respect the decision of parents in this regard i.e. should you wish for your child to wear a face covering in school.

Cleaning

Extensive cleaning routines and procedures have been put in place with the school cleaning contractor as per all relevant guidelines. All staff members have been provided with a 'wipe down' pack to be used regularly throughout the school day. Air purifiers are installed in all mainstream classrooms and in the computer room. The school awaits the delivery of CO2 monitors, and will follow Department of Education Guidance on Ventilation (May 2021) in relation to use and monitoring of air quality in classrooms.

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that 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, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents. It is not intended to cause worry at this stage by bringing this to the attention of parents but it is important that there is awareness that this scenario is possible during these challenging times.

PE

All PE will take place outdoors on school grounds. All equipment used must be wiped down after use. Teachers will also avail of local amenities i.e. Orwell Green, Tymon Park, Glendown Playground, as part of PE lessons.

Extra-curricular Activities/After-school classes

No extra-curricular activities/after-school classes will take place for September and October. This will be reviewed after this time and updated information will be provided to parents.