



School Profile

201

8 Mainstream classes

2 special classes catering for children with ASD

4 Special Education Teachers (1 shared with another school 5 days per week, 1 shared with another school 1.2hours per week, bulked)

Administrative Principal

10 SNA posts

Part Time Secretary

1 Fulltime and 1 part time secretary

The biggest classroom in the school is 80 metres squared (including toilets).

Toilets and sinks are located within each of the mainstream classes.

There is a sink in main SET room.

There are no toilets or sinks in the library/music room (currently being used as classrooms)

There are two toilet blocks located on the first floor, one exclusively for staff and one for children.

There are two blocks of student toilets on the ground floor, these will be used by the 6th class children in September and then will be used for break time usage thereafter.

There is one sink available off of the main hall in the servery area.

There is a sink available in the staffroom.

There is a sink available in the cleaners room downstairs.

Additional Challenges

Only one entrance/exit to the school building (pedestrian entrance and main staff car park entrance)

No on-site parking for parents/guardians

Human Resources allocated through additional funding from DES

Aide – 2 days

Deputy Principal – 5 Leadership and Administration Days

Assumptions

School will re-open for all pupils on Tuesday August 31st 2021

Key Dates

Week beginning Monday 16th August

Finalise Covid-19 Response Plan

Ensure staff, especially new staff receive all up to date DES information and training

Ensure that LWR receives new training

Week beginning Monday 23rd August

Publish Covid-19 Response Plan to school community

Organise BOM, ISM and Staff meetings to monitor progress against tasks. Encourage all staff members take some time for themselves and their families this week.

Some staff on site to finalise arrangements

Week beginning Monday 30th August

Monday – all staff on site for staff meeting and final preparations

Tuesday – welcome all children back to school

Usual School Hours

8.50-1.30p.m Infants

8.50-2.30p.m. First to Sixth

Under normal circumstances parents/guardians have access to the school yard both before and after school.

Drop Off and Collection Times (staggering)

To help with reducing the amount of traffic around the school gates, children are asked to walk/cycle/scoot to school if it is at all possible.

Where possible children are encouraged to walk into the school grounds by themselves.

We need to reduce the number of bodies entering the school grounds significantly at this time.

We appreciate that children in Junior and Senior Infants may need parents to drop them closer to school entry points initially **but where possible children should be dropped at the pedestrian gate.**

If you must enter the school grounds please follow the one-way system which will be in operation on the yard. **All adults and over 13s must wear a mask once on the school grounds.**

Enter via the pedestrian gate, follow the signs and exit via the staff car park gates.

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES can anyone (other staff members) drive into this car park for safety reasons.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for parents/guardians to come beyond the basketball court area before/after school. This area will be clearly marked with signage.

We will be making use of all our entry points this year.

Acorn/Oak classes will be entering via the main entrance door.

Junior Infants and Senior Infants and 5th class will be entering via the beach side door.

6th class will be entering via the first hall entrance door

1st and 2nd class will be entering via the second hall entrance door.

3rd and 4th class will be entering via the hillside door.

To minimise the risks, and to help us to maintain social distancing the following arrangements are applicable.

If a parent needs to collect a child early/drop a child late due to an appointment please inform the relevant class teacher in advance and email the office at office@ballybunionprimary.ie so that arrangements can be made by a staff member to collect in a safe manner.

Parents (or those dropping/collecting) please DO NOT congregate in groups on the school yard. It is natural that people will gravitate towards each other at these times but we are asking everyone to maintain a distance of 2 metres from anyone that is not part of your family bubble.

We will ask people to disperse if we see this happening so please help us in this regard.

Morning:

All class teachers will be in their classrooms by 8.40a.m awaiting the arrival of the children.

Parents are asked to 'drop and go' between 8.40a.m. and 9.00a.m. If entering the school grounds please wear a mask and observe social distancing of at least 2metres and follow all signage.

Children will go directly to their classrooms on arrival. Other staff members (including Special Education Teachers, SNAs and the Deputy/Principal) will be available outside and inside the building to receive the children and to help them to their classrooms.

Staff members will be going directly to class at 9.00am and will not be available thereafter. Therefore please ensure that you child/ren are in school by 9.00am at the latest.

Afternoon:

Due to the lack of space outside of the pedestrian gate we have decided that the evening collection point will be at the top of the staff car park i.e. the large rectangular area between the car park and the basketball court

This area will be divided into three sections to aid collection times.

(Special arrangements will be put in place for Junior Infants for the first few weeks of the school year)

From 13th September onwards:

1.30p.m. Class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the collection area. Parents are asked to 'pick up and go' until 1.40p.m.

From August 31th onwards:

1.30p.m. Class teacher will bring **Senior Infants** to collection area. Parents are asked to 'pick up and go' until 1.40p.m.

2.20pm Class teachers and/or SNAs will bring the children from the ASD classes (1st to 6th class) to the main entrance door where they will exit to their collection point on the front yard. Parents are asked to 'pick up and go' until 2.30pm.

2.25p.m. Class teachers will bring First, Second and Third Class to the collection points on the front yard. Parents are asked to 'pick up and go' until 2.30p.m. Families that have children in Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Class **as well as in First, Second and Third Class**, may collect all their children at this time.

2.30p.m. Class teachers will bring Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes to the school gate. Parents are asked to 'pick up and go'. Supervision will be provided until 2.40p.m.

As many of our older children walk home by themselves, there should not be as many adults arriving for pickups at this time.

*****If your child is walking home or has permission to walk unescorted to the church car park you must provide us with a written notice to this effect.**

Parents are asked to wear a mask and to maintain a social distance both inside the school grounds and outside the school gate.

This system will apply rain, hail or shine so please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather!

Summarised Timetable for Drop Off and Pick Up

8.40	All staff to be present to support arrival of pupils
	Class teachers to be in their classrooms
	SETs, SNAs and Principal to support arrival of pupils

8.40-9.00	Arrival of pupils – Stop, Drop, Go system. Children to go straight to their classrooms on arrival.
1.30	Stop, pick up go – Junior Infants
1.30	Stop, pick up, go – Senior Infants
2.25	Stop, pick up go – First, Second and Third class
2.30	Stop, pick up go – Fourth, Fifth, Sixth

Breaktimes

The DES guidelines state that the risk of transmission from contact with outside surfaces or play areas is low.

10.30-10.40 Break for Junior Infants (back yard, near amphitheatre) and Senior Infants (back yard, near the shed)

10.50-11.00 Break for 1st (back yard near amphitheatre) and 2nd class (back yard middle) and 3rd class (back yard near the shed)

Break for 4th class (front yard near car park), 5th class (remainder of front yard) 6th class (court front yard)

Lunch

Please note that the children eat in their classrooms for 10mins either before or after their lunch yard time (at the decision of the class teacher and their class timetable)

12.15-12.35 Break for Junior Infants (back yard, near amphitheatre) and Senior Infants (back yard, near the shed)

12.40-1.00 Break for 1st (back yard near amphitheatre) and 2nd class (back yard middle) and 3rd class (back yard near the shed)

Break for 4th class (front yard near car park), 5th class (remainder of front yard) 6th class (court front yard)

You will notice that there are intervals between breaktimes, this is to allow all children to line up and return to classrooms before the next class(es) make their way outside.

Yard Supervision

A rota will be organised based on Class Bubbles and the SETs allocated to those classes.

Changes to Classroom and School Layout and to School Routines

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our Primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms, to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

The children and their teachers will work in Class Bubbles. A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day.

Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants

We are hopeful that our Acorn and Oak rooms can integrate with their class groups this year.

Staff members (particularly Special Education Teachers and SNAs) can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible. When rotation occurs, agreed sanitising routines will be observed.

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work as far as possible, within the confines of a bubble.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different pupils or small groups attending.

Children will be arranged in Pods within their Class Bubbles, with a maximum of 6 pupils per Pod. As far as possible, each Pod will be at least 1 metre distance from the next Pod. All unnecessary furniture will be removed from these classrooms to create as much space as possible. Sneeze guards will also be in place.

Parents are asked NOT to request changes to the pods unless in essential circumstances.

General Purpose (GP) Room

Until our modular unit arrives 6th class will be using the GP hall (for at least the month of September).

Thereafter the GP Room will be used in limited circumstances. As all children will be wearing their tracksuit every day this will help to facilitate timetable of hall usage between classes.

The GP hall will also be used for entrance and exit pathways (see above)

Windows must be fully open at all times during PE lessons in the GP hall.

Corridors and Stairwells

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions.

However, we will be asking that children refrain from talking/shouting on their way to and from the classrooms.

We will observe our usual practice of keeping to the left when on the stairs and in the corridors. Children will be reminded to keep a social distance in their lines.

Additional Measures to Limit Interactions

Children will go straight to their classrooms from the yard and will not congregate in the corridors or hallways.

While we will all be delighted to see each other again, hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

Doors and Windows

Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces.

To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible, and will be fully opened while children are taking breaks in the playground and in the mornings/evenings before and after school.

Windows should be opened fully when children are singing as a group, or when they are playing musical instruments. Tin whistles should not be shared between pupils.

Monitors are in place in all classrooms which monitor CO2. Colour indicators allow easy visual references for when additional ventilation might be necessary.

Coat storage and toilets

Additional coat hangers are now in places for all classes. Children may also place their coats on the back of chairs at the discretion of the class teacher.

Water heaters have been upgraded in the school to ensure sufficient heat to help kill the virus when washing hands with soap and water.

Hand sanitisers are available on the sink areas outside of classroom toilets.

Lunches

Parents must make sure that children bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day. Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice.

If your child is NOT availing of the Carambola lunches OR if they are bringing additional food to school this **must be placed in a paper bag** which should be disposed of at the end of every day.

Lunchboxes are not permitted for the duration of this pandemic.

Following consultation with our regional Inspector and in line with our desire to remain a Green School any remaining/uneaten food or waste products will be returned to your child's school bag at the end of the day. PLEASE ensure that your child's bag is cleaned out EVERY NIGHT.

Our water dispensers will NOT be in operation.

Your child must pack sufficient water daily to suit their individual needs.

Books, Copies, Pencils, etc.

Children should use their own books, pens, pencils, etc. and as far as possible should not share with other pupils.

We are asking that the stationery list (i.e. their pencil case) attached to your child's booklist be left in school. A second set of stationery should be kept at home for homework completion.

Uniforms/Tracksuits

There is no guidance from the DES at present to say that school uniforms or tracksuits should be washed every day and this is probably not practical for most families.

When washing uniforms it has been suggested to wash them at 60 degrees.

As a school we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniform tracksuits **only for school related activities.** Uniform tracksuits should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops, during after-school activities, etc. Showering after school has also been recommended.

Office

A contactless payment system has been set up to minimise the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/Guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe by arranging for contactless payments through the school office.

Children should not be sent to the Secretary's Office or to the Reception area to deliver messages.

As far as possible, staff members should not enter the Office area and should speak with the Secretary at the Reception area.

Photocopying.

Any staff member who uses the photocopier should clean it down after use with the wipes provided.

ICTs

A timetable will be drawn up for the use of common ICT devices. Devices should be cleaned after use and before they are returned to the charging trolley.

Visiting Teachers/Coaches

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities such as Dancing, Coaching for games, Safe Cycling course, etc. will be explored further in term 1 this year.

At present however, we will not be including any extra curricular activities as we have been advised by the DES to continue as per last year.

Substitute Teachers and SNAs

A copy of the Covid-19 Response Plan will be provided to each substitute teacher/SNA. Substitutes will be required to complete a Return to the Workplace form before they enter a classroom and will be asked to confirm that they have engaged in the online Induction training.

Physical Education and P.E. Equipment

Physical Education lessons will take place outside when the weather allows.

Staff members and pupils may take additional breaks outside during the school day. Classes are encouraged to participate in 'The Daily Mile'.

Parent/ Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place via phone in line with practice last year. The feedback received from both parents and staff was very positive.

Staffroom

All staff members should maintain a physical distance of 2 metres when they are not engaged in teaching e.g. when they are using the staff room and arriving to work. If 2m cannot be maintained in staff groups, face coverings must be worn. Maximum numbers apply for seating.

Staff meetings will be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing.

Staff members should bring their own cups, bottles, cutlery, etc. to school and avoid sharing utensils in the staffroom as far as possible.

Teaching and Learning

Homework

Teachers will not be assigning homework for the first two full weeks at school. School books were available for collection August 16th and 17th. These books should be covered, labelled and returned to the school on the first day back at school. Teachers will make individual decisions in relation to homework from September 13th onwards. Decisions will be made in relation to what books will remain at home/in school and how to keep everyone safe in this regard.

We will continue to follow last year's format for homework.

Homework will be assigned on Monday for the entire week. Homework folders will be sent home with assigned work on Monday and will not return to school until Friday morning where it will be quarantined for 72 hours and corrected.

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 Special Education Teacher, where relevant) **may** provide work to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents/guardians. **Please see Q&A information provided by the INTO, below, in relation to this.**

The majority of parents have downloaded the Aladdin Connect App which will be used by staff this coming academic year as our main form of communication. If you have not already downloaded the app please do so ASAP.

Please note we will not be responding to any messages on the Facebook forum going forward. We have found that there are too many ways to contact us at the moment and we risk missing out on an important message.

Please use the following emails for any queries you might have

For general school/admin queries email office@ballybunionprimary.ie this includes queries in relation to Carambola lunches, Aladdin Connect, calendars, books etc

For uniform queries email deputy@ballybunionprimary.ie

For COVID specific queries please contact our LWR Mrs Anne Larkin set@ballybunionprimary.ie (Please note this email is used by all SET team members)

For individual class teacher queries email:

acornclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

oakclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

juniorinfants@ballybunionprimary.ie

seniorinfants@ballybunionprimary.ie

firstclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

secondclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

thirdclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

fourthclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

fifthclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

sixthclass@ballybunionprimary.ie

The special education team are available at set@ballybunionprimary.ie

If your query is urgent/serious or if you would like the query brought to the attention of the Principal as well as the class teacher please cc the principal at the following email

principal@ballybunionprimary.ie

Wellbeing of the School Community

We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all our pupils and staff. These are promoting:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope

Our usual practice is to provide support to pupils based on what is known as the Continuum of Support. This is a tiered system that provides Whole School and Classroom Support for all pupils, additional School Support for some pupils, and School Support plus extra targeted intervention for a few pupils with complex needs.

The Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff members are not required to wear PPE. However, for a limited number of staff, PPE will need to be used occasionally or constantly due to the nature of certain work activities or work areas. This might include roles such as:

- Assisting with intimate care needs
- Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation
- Where staff are particularly vulnerable to infection but are not on the list of those categorised as people in very high-risk groups or may be living with those who are in the very high-risk category.
- When staff members have to move between classrooms to support children with learning needs.

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they will apply standard precautions as per usual.

Masks

The children are not required to wear masks or face coverings. **Some children may wish to wear face coverings this is at parental discretion.**

The guidelines now recommend that staff wear masks.

Staff members will be provided with medical grade masks weekly.

Staff are asked to wear their own cloth mask (or disposable mask) AND the N95 mask daily.

Gloves

There is no need for the children to wear disposable gloves. They are considered inappropriate under the guidelines.

Staff members do not need to wear disposable gloves unless they are looking after a pupil's intimate care needs or administering First Aid or handling bin bags at the end of the day.

There will be an emphasis on hand hygiene rather than on the wearing of disposable gloves.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom.

Warm water and soap is available in all toilet and sink areas.

Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Under no circumstances should these cleaning materials be removed from the building. **Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.**

Waste will be collected regularly from offices and other areas within the school.

Staff must use and clean their own equipment and utensils (cup, cutlery, plate etc.)

Illness and Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

We love to see all of our children at school every day. However, under the current circumstances, parents/guardians **must** keep children at home if they display **any** Covid-19 Symptoms. <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>

Staff must not attend school if they display any symptoms.

Children/staff must not return to school until the symptoms are completely gone and/or a COVID test has proved negative. A GP letter will be required for any return of less than 48 hours.

A designated isolation area has been created in the back hall, near the hillside rear exit door.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the following procedure will be implemented:

The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation area. A distance of 2 meters will be maintained where possible. The person accompanying the child must wear a face covering.

If a pupil has a suspected case, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. **To help us in this regard, parents are asked to make sure that their contact details are kept up to date at all times.** It is extremely important that additional contacts are provided to us should you be uncontactable for any reason.

You can edit your contact details via the Aladdin app at any time.

Staff members who are symptomatic should immediately inform the Principal/Deputy Principal (via telephone) and go to the isolation area.

A face covering will be provided to the staff member/child who is symptomatic. If your child is exempt from wearing a mask for any reason, this must be notified to the school in writing.

The staff member or child who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.

If the staff member/child is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible.

Anyone who is symptomatic is advised to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to travel home.

If the staff member/child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.

The isolation area and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned in line with the guidelines.

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.

It is important to remember that any of us can get sick or unwell, and if we do, we need understanding and support from those around us. It is essential that anyone who feels unwell makes that known to the Principal/Deputy Principal as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Related Absence Management

COVID-19 related absences will be managed in line with agreed procedures with the Department of Education.

Teacher or SNA Absence and Substitution

If a teacher/SNA is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher/SNA for the class/pupil. If a substitute teacher/SNA is not available, it is not appropriate for the class/pupil to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class/pupil to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme

Support for school staff wellbeing will be provided by Department Support Services including the PDST and CSL, as well as by the HSE's Health Promotion Team.

An Occupational Health Strategy is in place as a supportive resource for staff in schools. The aim of the Occupational Health Strategy is to promote the health and wellbeing of employees in the workplace, with a strong focus on prevention.

The Occupational Health Strategy comprises the Employee Assistance Service and the Occupational Health Service. The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) is provided by Spectrum Life under the logo of 'Wellbeing Together: Folláinne Le Chéile'.

A free-phone confidential helpline 1800 411 057 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and staff members are encouraged to make use of the service when the need arises.

Tasks Identified to Date

		Completed
Review and communicate the school's Covid-19 Response Plan	BOM in consultation with Staff and Parents	27.08.2021
Appoint LWR and DLWR	Staff	17.08.2020 (continued)
Provide Return to Work Forms to all staff	Principal	23.08.2021 (via email)
Provide links to training	Principal	23.08.2021 (via email)

Complete and return RTW forms	All staff	By 30.08.2021
Complete Induction training	All staff	Completed before 30.08.2021
Draw up list of PPE in advance of procurement process	Aide	25.08.2021
Purchase required PPE	Aide	25.08.2021
Arrange for installation of sanitising units, provision of PPE to staff and provision of cleaning materials to staff.	Aide	07.08.2020 (checked August 21)
Display signage	Aide	07.08.2020 (checked August 21)
Investigate contactless payments system	Secretary	July 2020 In situ for Academic year 21/22
Investigate internal intercom system	Principal	Already installed
Arrange for installation of water heaters, extra hand dryer	Principal/Caretaker	Already installed and checked 07.08.2020
Create Isolation Area	Caretaker	07.08.2020
Erect 'safe area' for Reception	Caretaker	07.08.2020
Review of S,H and W Policy and Covid-19 Risk Assessment	BOM	Ongoing
Plan for coat racks	Staff	Delivered week 31.08.2020
Agree timetable for SETs and SNAs	SETs/SNAs/All staff	Ongoing
Agree sanitising routines for SETs/SNAs moving between Pods or Class Bubbles	SETs/SNAs	30.08.2021
Provide Notes to all school staff	LWR	Ongoing
Agree classroom layouts	All staff	30.08.2021
Timetable for ICTs and plan for sanitisation	ISM Team member	30.08.2021
Plan for provision of ICT needs to pupils in case we need to return to Home Learning	ISM Team member	Staff meeting held 30.08.21
Staffroom – arrange for social distancing.	Staff member	TBC 25.08.2021
Plan for a visit to the school by incoming Junior Infants	Class teacher and Principal	All parents and new entrants were given the opportunity/option to visit the school in June (and August) 2021 as 'previous' first day at school procedures would contravene H&s guidelines

Arrange for collection of 6 th Class belongings	Principal	June 23 rd 2021
Organise and distribute Book Rental books to classrooms	SNA team with P and DP	16 th and 17 st August 2021
Agree daily timetable to include staggered breaks	Staff	30.08.2021
Agree supervision rotas	Staff	30.08.2021
Agree and plan for morning drop off and afternoon pick up routines	Staff	30.08.2021
Plan for the possibility of remote learning if the school/part of the school is advised to close by HSE	All staff	TBC 30.08.2021
Plan for how P/T meetings, General Information Meetings might take place.	All staff	Discussed 23.08.2021
Arrange cleaning and sanitisation of the building before school re-opens	BOM/Principal	Throughout July and August and ongoing daily
Plan for the management of substitutes	Principal/DP/Secretary	Whatsapp group created, part of Listowel Convent Primary school cluster
Plan for enhanced daily cleaning routines	DP	Ongoing
Plan for Teaching and Learning – September, October	All staff	Ongoing planning
Plan for Staff and Pupil Wellbeing	BOM, ISM Team	Ongoing

Information provided by the INTO (further information is available at www.into.ie)

Q: Is a school expected to provide adapted education for children who are not at 'very high risk' to Covid-19 but are anxious about returning to school?

- A. No. Pupils and parents who are experiencing a high level of anxiety, to the extent that they choose not to return to school, should receive support and reassurance from the school. It is understandable that some parents will harbour an element of concern as children return to schools following a prolonged absence, but schools can assure parents that they have been provided with guidelines from the DES in relation to class size management, implementing social distancing etc. to ensure a sufficiently safe learning environment. Parents can access these guidelines, which are based on public health advice and informed by best practice internationally at www.education.ie The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) have developed resources for parents, pupils and teachers on anxiety. NEPS will be available to advise schools on how best to support pupils and parents in this cohort. Pupils identified as at risk of early school leaving should also be supported in the usual manner and schools are not expected to use adapted education provision / remote learning. TUSLA Education Support Service (TESS) have indicated that they will prioritise supports for schools in relation to return to school and school attendance for children in this category during

the months of September and October. TESS have also devised a useful set of Frequently Asked Questions for parents which can be accessed on their website.

Q.Are pupils who are learning from home marked absent on the school roll?

A. Children who hold a medical certificate stating that they are at 'very high risk to Covid19' and are therefore instructed to remain at home, as per public health advice, should be marked present. **All pupils other than those in the 'very high risk to Covid-19' group will only be marked present when they attend school.**