



An Ráiteas Covid 19

Gaelscoil Riada, Baile Átha an Rí. Co. na Gaillimhe

Rationale

The school has a responsibility to make 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 to ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.

This plan has been formulated in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full school day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim. We have our Microsoft Teams digital learning platform updated to support us in that aim and in particularly in the event of any further school closures.

- 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 the commitment of all shareholders will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

DO NOT YOU UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE, A COUGH OF ANY KIND, LOSS OF SMELL/TASTE OR HAVE ANY KIND OF SHORTNESS OF BREATH. Always speak to your child's Doctor if you are in any way doubtful. It is always best to remain cautious.

An Plean don Lá Scoile.

Ag teacht ar Scoil ar maidin. Coming to school in the morning.

08.40-08.50 - Families with Surnames A-H

08.50-09.00- Families with surnames H onwards

The English language version of your child's surname will be used to avoid confusion.

The children will not congregate on the yard as they were traditionally used to doing on dry mornings, instead they will go directly to their classrooms. The children will hang up their coats and leave their coats beside their name on the hanger. They will then sanitise their hands and go to their pods.

- **No adults, other than staff members, may enter the building.** This will be very difficult for some parents and children but please be assured that every effort will be made to keep the lines of communication open in assisting your child with transitioning and returning to school. Entry to the school building is for pupils and staff only. Parents may walk their child to large gate outside out of the Gaelscoil Riada and naíonra complex. Please continue to use the church side of the car park as always.
- Messages and notes for teachers can be sent to school email or by phoning the school office. Please do not give handwritten notes. Our Microsoft Teams platform will also be operational to facilitate messages and online meetings.
- The entrance door will be closed once all classes have entered the school building. In the instance of late arrivals, please ring the buzzer at the school office.

End of School Day

Please be patient as the teachers release the children at the end of the school day.

Junior and Senior Infants will go home at 1.30. The children will be brought outside to the large gate and must be collected promptly. Again, we would appreciate your co-operation in minimising congregations at collection time.

2.20 The children going home by bus will be released first.

2.25. Ranganna 3 agus 4

2.30 Rang 4/5 Rang a 5 agus Rang a sé.

(This is to facilitate the safe release of students from the classrooms).

Please remain outside the large gate outside the Gaelscoil Riada complex and observe the 2m distance from other parents waiting in line with public health advice.

Hand Sanitizer/Signage and Markings.

- There are hand sanitizers stations at each classroom, at entry and exit points and at toilets which children will be required to use. They will be asked to regularly wash their hands while in school particularly before eating, after using the bathroom and coming in from outside activities.

- Paper towels and pedal bins have been installed in all rooms.
- Covid-19 Signage is displayed around the school along with floor markings along the corridors. This will support the children and staff to practice social distancing.

The school yard will be organised into segregated play spaces with staggered break times to decrease physical interaction on the yard.

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways:

- **Increasing Separation.** This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (4-6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom. These pods will be 1 m apart.
- **Decreasing Interaction.** This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. Our yard will be divided into four sections with the children required to stay in their section and not mix with pupils from other classes.

We will now have staggered lunch breaks to ensure that we can provide for decreasing interaction between class bubbles.

10.35-10.45- Junior Infants to Second class

10.45-10.55 - Third class to sixth class.

Am Lóin Mór: 12.00-12.30 Junior infants to Second class

12.30-1.00 Third class to sixth class.

Tionól scoile/ School assemblies will not take place and the school will use Microsoft Teams to facilitate this during school time where the Principal can address all the classes across the school.

Materials: Ábhar Scoile.

Children must use their own resources ie pencils, scissors etc and the sharing of resources, particularly from 3rd -6th will not be allowed. Please ensure that your child has two sets of stationary, one for home and one for school. Please label all items clearly especially twistables and pencils.

Éadaí Scoile: School Uniform is to be worn but flexibility will be afforded if your need to wash your child's uniform.

- We ask that all books are covered with a plastic cover/contact paper so they can be easily wiped at home and in school. It is preferable that this is done for copies also.

Boscaí Lóin: Please sanitise lunch boxes every evening. Lunch boxes will always be kept in the children's school bags. Please use lunchboxes and bottles that are easy to use as children will need to be independent in managing their own lunchboxes. Please send in water for your child as it is important that children are well hydrated during the day. We can no longer have shared water dispensers at this time. Please be mindful that we have a healthy eating policy and no nuts and nutbased products are to be brought to school. The following video has been issued by An Taisce to encourage parents to be mindful of foodwaste. All food waste and uneaten food goes home in the lunch box.
<https://bit.ly/34Ed2w6> www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Cótaí: Children can hang their coats at their designated area as set out by the class teacher. Hats and Scarves must remain in your child's school bag.

Obair bhaile: The children will not be given homework for the month of September. This will be reviewed at the end of the month as children become more adjusted to the school routine. All books and copies will remain at school unless sent by the class teacher to be stored if necessary.

Glanadh na Scoile

Staff will maintain a regular cleaning routine of all resources and materials that will be used by different pods or classes. Where necessary items of school equipment will be isolated for 72 hours prior to being used by a different pod/class.

- The school will be cleaned, following all government guidelines, advise and checklists, every day and teachers will have access to cleaning products to clean high touch areas such as door handles etc throughout the day.

Collection of Children during the School Day. Please ensure that those caring for your child are aware of this procedure.

- If an adult must collect a child during the school day, the following arrangements will apply...
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone or email the office to give advanced notification where possible. Please wear a mask when you are collecting your child from the school early.

Your child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff

- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

- It is preferable that the parent notifies the school the day before about collections where possible.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

- Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the school will follow the response plan guidelines.
- If your child develops symptom at school, they must bring this to the attention of their teacher/principal. The child will be immediately cared for in an isolated room with a member of the staff. They will remain there until they are collected. The staff member accompanying them will remain at least 2m from them and will be wearing PPE. Your child will be given a mask if they need to go this room. They must be collected as soon as possible. This room will be called the seomra cúramóra or care room and we will ensure that your child feels reassured and as safe as possible whilst waiting to be collected.

In the event of an outbreak, it is not the role of the Principal to advise on school interventions, cases and school closures. This is the remit of Public Health and disclosing information on an individual's health status is in breach of GDPR regulations. We will always follow the HSE guidance and any further updates on this guidance will be provided to parents.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and provide an emergency contact also. Under current HSE guidelines they MUST self-isolate and contact their GP. They may not return to school until advised by their GP.

Personal Protective Equipment.

It is not necessary for primary school children to wear masks during school time.

PPE/Mass will be worn by SNAs and teachers who cannot maintain social distancing. Also, PPE will be worn when staff are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid. Children who should not attend school. If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school -

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- 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
- Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period
- Children who are generally unwell or present with symptoms such as a high temperature, a cough of any kind, loss of smell/taste or have any kind of shortness of breath.

PARENTAL SUPPORT IS VITAL IN SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF FACILITATE THE SAFE RETURN OF CHILDREN TO SCHOOL ...

- We will be teaching the children the importance of etiquette in maintaining good personal hygiene. The Department have issued an online Wellbeing toolkit and we will be showing these videos to the children during school time. You can help us by talking to your children about good personal hygiene, coughing and sneezing etiquette the importance of handwashing through promoting these practices at home with them.
- Please communicate with your child's teacher via phone/email/ Microsoft Teams.
- Do not enter the school building unless prior permission to do so has been granted by the principal or Deputy Principal Sinéad and Maeve.
- **Do not allow your child to bring any personal items, which are not necessary for school, into school ie toys, playing cards, teddies, etc. Please do not bring footballs into school.**

At drop- off and collection times it is important that you adhere to the simply drop and go system. A staff member will always be on duty to reassure your child if they are unsettled. Staff members will not be able to facilitate unplanned meetings no matter how long they take as every second counts during this important time at morning and evening.

The Board of Management, Staff, and parents of Gaelscoil Riada have a collective responsibility to ensuring our school reopens safely. We are all guided by the common purpose of ensuring safety and adhering to Governmental advice and guidance. Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable. The Board of Management have ensured that we have control measures in place, and are following the DES COVID 19 Response Plan, to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening.

It will take some time for all of us to get used to the new circumstances as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus.

There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise. Please be mindful that this is a new experience for everyone in the education sector and all we can do is our best and above all adhere to public health guidance. We would like to thank you for your co-operation in preparing to date and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes. The Board of Management at Gaelscoil Riada is aware of the challenges that the last six months has brought to many families and we will be doing our very best to support the wellbeing of all in our school community.

Táimid ag súil go mór roimh na páistí a fheiceáil agus roimh iad a shocrú isteach. We are looking forward to greeting all the children for the year ahead. We will work together to ensure that the return to schooling is as stress free as possible. There will be challenges along the way and lots of new learning. However, we will rise to them and ensure that the common goal of ensuring a warm, supportive safe and caring learning environment for our pupils is realised.

Please ensure that you check out the family supports and information videos with your child in advance of returning to school.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/>

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Foireann na scoile.