



# Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

## Return to School Bulletin Update 1

Below is a list of some of the measures that Coláiste Bríde has currently in place or is working on in preparation for our return to school at the end of the month.

- Our Board of Management is putting a COVID 19 response plan in place.
- We are currently revising the back to school schedule for students in order to enable the safest possible return for all students. We envisage that this schedule will be staggered over the first ten days in September. We will inform parents by text with the dates and details in the coming days.
- Hand sanitizing stations are being installed outside every room used by students and staff and at all entrances & exits.
- Signage is being installed which will highlight the measures that help to prevent the spread of the virus
- We are working on a new timetable which will aid in the reduction in class sizes.
- A revised programme of events will be compiled for Transition Year (TY) students. As part of this programme all Transition Year students will spend one day a week on community work/work experience. This will allow us to reduce class sizes in Transition Year. More detailed information will be forwarded to parents in the coming days.
- We are currently revising our SPHE and Pastoral Care programmes to support student's well-being as they return to school.
- To facilitate social distancing planning is currently in progress to stagger small break and lunch time which will mean there will be separate break and lunch times for different year groups.
- Our school canteen will not operate in Term 1, this is to facilitate social distancing and the use of our Lunch Hall as a classroom to accommodate larger class groups.
- Classrooms are currently being cleared of any excess furniture, including students' lockers, to facilitate maximum space for social distancing.
- Classrooms are also being arranged seating wise to facilitate the maximum space for social distancing.
- For the coming year it will be students who will be assigned to a base classroom and not teachers. This will limit movement on the corridors and limit interactions between students from different class groups.
- Parents should phone the school to make an appointment before any intended visit.
- We ask that Parents/Guardians make payments by phone to the school secretary or through VSware where possible.
- It is important to note that all Parents/Guardians & students be advised that government advice now insists that all students and staff wear face coverings in school where 2 metre or 1 metre social distancing cannot be achieved. In a school like ours that was built for 600 students, but, with a projected enrolment of 750 for September 2020, and with a staff of 70, it will not be possible to facilitate 2 metre socially distancing.
- It is important that all students supply their own masks, we recommend reusable cloth face masks.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.



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- Please note, that wearing a face covering or mask does not negate the need to stay at home if symptomatic. It is of the utmost importance that students who are not feeling well do not come to school.
- All students on the post primary transport scheme will be expected to wear face coverings unless there is a good reason not to do so. Parents should contact their transport provider regarding the details of this.
- In accordance with Department of Education advice students will not have access to shared water facilities. Students should arrange to bring an adequate supply of water for the duration of the school day.
- Our student toilets are being adjusted to help maintain social distancing, new hand dryers are being installed in all toilets.
- There will be separate entrance & exit points for students. Students will be informed of this and all other safety procedures when their Health & Safety induction takes place.
- A keep left will be in operation on the corridors, which students will be informed of this upon their return. Construction work has taken place to congestion area on the corridor.
- It is of the utmost importance to point out that all staff or students who have been abroad in 'non-green list countries' should not return to school until 14 days after arriving back in Ireland.
- Cleaning products to sanitize surfaces will be available in all classrooms.
- For students who feel ill at school, an isolation area will be provided. Parents will be expected to make arrangements for immediate collection.

Please keep up to date with further information on the reopening of schools on our dedicated webpage on our website at <https://www.colaistebride.ie/reopening-of-schools.html>

Please visit the DES website for further information <https://www.education.ie/covid19>

We are looking forward to the return of all students and staff to Coláiste Bríde. While there will be difficulties and challenges ahead you can be assured, we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all members our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Kiera O'Sullivan

Principal