



## **School Reopening Guidelines for Students/Parents/Guardians**

### **Updated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Coláiste Bríde will open for our cohort of 5<sup>th</sup> year students next Monday following the recent closure. They will join our 6<sup>th</sup> year students and their teachers who are already back. While we are extremely proud of the great efforts made by our students and staff in ensuring that learning and teaching has continued online throughout this period, we greatly look forward to welcoming our students back into the school building.

We are including below some updates regarding our school's measures to protect against Covid-19.

Please note that in the current climate everything is subject to change dependent on advice from the Department of Education.

### **Personal responsibility**

Our objective is to keep Covid-19 out of our school. If we can achieve this objective, then the virus cannot spread within our school. Each member of our school community has a personal responsibility to do the right thing through wearing a mask correctly (i.e., over the nose and under the chin), following correct hand hygiene procedures, following correct respiratory etiquette and maintaining the advised social distance.

We expect that everyone will take their own personal responsibility seriously and maturely and cooperate fully with the measures we have introduced. Students and staff must not come to school if they are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, are close contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 or have travelled abroad in the recent past. All updated information regarding these measures is available from [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

## Reopening Schedule

This is our revised opening schedule:

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of March:

- Students in 5<sup>th</sup> Year will return to the school building for classes.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year students have already returned.
- All other year groups have yet to be confirmed.

All parents MUST complete the **Return to School COVID-19 Declaration** that will be sent to them before they return to school. No student can be permitted to return to class without having submitted this declaration form.

## Cleaning

We will continue with the excellent cleaning regime that has always been in place here in Coláiste Bríde. The school has received a deep clean over the past week. Our regular cleaning staff will continue to ensure the cleaning of our school is above and beyond the required standards. All members of the school community have a duty to ensure that they clean their area after use. This will facilitate our cleaning staff to continue cleaning areas where high volumes of people have been. Students are reminded to ensure they have a supply of anti-viral wipes for clean their seating area after use. The wipes at the teacher's desk are not for general use. Extra packs of wipes are available for purchase.

## Face masks

Face masks worn correctly are a requirement in attendance in Coláiste Bríde. In accordance with national guidelines and public safety advice face masks MUST be worn. In accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Education students will maintain a distance of 1 metre within the classrooms in Coláiste Bríde. Therefore, students **MUST** always wear a mask in our school. Full details on how to wear a face mask correctly can be found by clicking [here](#).

It is advised that students would have several clean facemasks for use throughout the day. This is to allow for changing of the mask at break times and at other times when face masks may become wet. Students should store used facemasks in a sealed plastic bag until they return home and either dispose of them or wash them if appropriate. Masks should also be worn on the journey to school, if sharing transport, and before entering the school campus.

## **School Uniform**

Full school uniform must be worn. Only on the day that students have PE are students to be allowed to wear suitable PE clothes i.e., tracksuit and t-shirt/ top with the school jacket for the full day as our changing rooms will not be in operation. Students MUST NOT wear PE clothes on days that they do not have PE. On all other days students must wear their full school uniform. As windows will be open in order to facilitate proper ventilation of classrooms it is advised that students do wear additional layers of clothing to keep warm. These layers can be worn under their correct school uniform.

## **Access to the school building**

Access to the school building will continue to be strictly on an appointment basis, apart from staff and students. Parents are asked to call the office (0539234245) or use the buzzer system when they are outside the building and the office staff will help to arrange with materials being dropped off or facilitate student collection.

## **Punctuality**

Considering the current situation, students must make every effort to be in school on time. Classes begin each morning at 8:45am therefore it is important that students give themselves enough time to be seated in their scheduled class for roll call. This is to ensure that our contact tracing logs are accurate should they be required. We expect everyone's cooperation in this regard.

## **Base Classrooms**

Students will continue to have a base classroom for subjects that do not require moving to a specialist classroom. Students are asked to sit at their assigned desk when in this classroom.

This will minimise touch points for students and they are requested to sit near other students from their base class when in optional subjects. Teachers will be maintaining their seating plans for each room and students are expected to cooperate with this. Students should have their own supply of wipes. Students are asked to wipe down their seating area with the wipes they have brought with them prior to departing from a classroom.

## **Social Distancing**

We would ask that all students cooperate with social distancing measures, both within the building and outside, and make their way to their next classroom as quickly as possible. In situations where masks are removed (such as assigned mask breaks outdoors) a minimum distance of 2 metres must be always maintained.

## **Lunchtime**

Our canteen facility will remain closed this term. Students are asked to bring their own lunches as breaktime access to the local shop is not permitted. Students are also asked to bring their own bottled water as the water fountains will not be available for use. Once a student has finished eating, they are advised to put back on their mask immediately. This should take place well within the minimum 15-minute period as recommended by the HSE.

## **Hand Sanitisers**

Hand sanitiser dispensers are widely available around the corridors. Hand sanitiser will also be available in each classroom and bathroom areas. Students should sanitise their hands regularly throughout the school day. Sanitiser is also available in practical rooms to wipe down equipment prior to use and at the end of each class. Students are also requested to wash their hands at regular intervals during the school day.

## **Suspected Case of Covid-19**

If a member of a student's household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (Check HSE website to keep up to date on symptoms) the student(s) from that household **MUST NOT** attend school until cleared to do so by medical personnel. If a student displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while in school, they will be taken to our isolation area and we will

contact parents/guardians to come and collect them immediately. Parents should then contact their GP and follow their advice from that point. If a case is confirmed in the school the HSE protocols will take over regarding contact tracing, etc.

## **Remote Learning**

Until such time as all year groups are back in the building remote learning and teaching will continue for those year groups asked to remain at home. In the event that students are required to remain at home teachers will do their best to ensure that resources and class materials are uploaded to Microsoft Teams to support the student while they are required to remain at home. The Minister for education has directed schools that remote learning will stop when a year group returns to in class learning.

## **Returning from travelling abroad**

As you are aware, the Department of Foreign Affairs has a general COVID-19 travel advisory in operation advising people to avoid all non-essential travel until further notice. If you have returned from abroad, please read the current information from the Department of Foreign Affairs by clicking [here](#).

## **Conclusion**

If you have any queries or suggestions to make please email us at [office@colaistebride.ie](mailto:office@colaistebride.ie)

We look forward to welcoming each member of our school community as they return to the building. We know that by maintaining the high standards and respecting one another we can do our level best to keep Covid-19 risks to a minimum.

We appreciate everyone's support in this.