



BETNS Covid-19 Risk Assessment based on the full return to school 24th August 2021

The following document is to be read and viewed alongside *Reopening Our Schools - The Roadmap for the Full Return to School* and the *COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary and Special Schools*. This Risk Assessment is guided by both documents.

Building and Yard

Risk	Drop off and collection times
Solution	Parent/Guardians will walk their child to the classroom door. They will also collect their children from the same door. Children will not be lining up in yard. Children in the Junior Room will use the school's front door. Parent/Guardians are encouraged to park at the side of the school Children in the Senior Room will use its external door. Parent/Guardians are encouraged to park at the front of the school Children in the Middle Room will use its external door. Parent/Guardians are encouraged to park in the Basketball Court Children in the ASD Class will use its front door. Parent/Guardians are encouraged to park in the Basketball Court. Parent/Guardians should drop and leave as soon as possible so to avoid gatherings of people.
Risk	Returning to school after a subsequent closure
Solution	Parents to complete the Return to Education Form
Risk	Lining up times after yard
Solution	Junior, Middle, Senior and ASD Classes line up with 3m gaps SNAs to accompany ASD class Children to line up within their pods

	Middle and Senior Classes return to their external classroom doors The Junior Class will use the front door to access their class ASD Class return via their external door.
Risk	Hanging up coats/putting wellies on
Solution	Children to do this by pods
Risk	Physical distancing within classrooms
Solution	Teacher desks to be 1m distance from children desks Children in all classes to sit in pods (1m social distancing not possible due to small class sizes). These pods to remain the same per term, as much as is possible. Pods will be situated 1m from each other
Risk	Spread of Covid-19 as an airborne disease
Solution	Ventilation Windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. Windows/doors to be opened more fully if CO2 monitors if carbon dioxide levels too high
Risk	Special Education Teaching/Special Class
Solution	SET teacher will continue to withdraw pupils/groups in the afternoon. The SET room will be utilised. Staff/children will wash and sanitise hands prior to entering the SET Room. Children will keep at least 1m distance from each other (2m if individual or very small groups). SET teacher to support junior and middle rooms at set times. SET teacher will wash and sanitise hands prior to entering each room. SNA to support junior and middle room at set times. SNA will wash and sanitise hands prior to entering each room Hand sanitisers to be used in ASD Class entering the building.
Risk	Mainstream class teaching
Solution	Teachers / SNA to avoid sitting beside or kneeling down beside children as much as possible. Replacement behaviour of standing beside children's desks where close-up interactions are needed (checking work etc.) Staff to gently explain to children about their own physical distancing needs where possible. Each staff member to decide if they wear face coverings or visors Children and families to decide if they wear face coverings or visors
Risk	Use of classroom sinks
Solution	Children to clean individually or with members of their pod
Risk	Use of resources
Solution	Children books/resources to be stacked by pod Only members of that pod will hand out/collect books Tablets may continue to be used but must be wiped down after use Art supplies to be kept in each classroom.

	<p>Pods should have their own assigned art resources as much as possible.</p> <p>Parent/Guardians must label all their children's belongings.</p> <p>Children should be encouraged to avoid touching shared items like water jars and paint pots with their hands</p> <p>Resources needed between bubbles will be cleaned by the teacher after use and returned to storage area</p> <p>Aistear resources cleaned daily after use – will only be used by one pod daily</p> <p>Damaged resources, toys etc to be discarded</p>
Risk	Whole-school announcements/assembly/Winter Concert
Solution	<p>Assembly to take place monthly outdoors where possible.</p> <p>The Winter Concert/Play is postponed until further updates.</p> <p>Birthdays, news and celebration of achievements will continue under the direction of the class teacher</p> <p>The principal may visit all classrooms to make important announcements but will stay as distanced from all pupils outside of his own bubble as possible</p>
Risk	Yard time
Solution	<p>Each bubble i.e. (Junior and ASD Class, Middle and Senior Room) to play as a bubble in designated parts of the yard. These areas will be rotated every two weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area 1 = Yard to old playground • Area 2 = New Playground Area and grass area to side • Area 3 = Football Pitch <p>Two teachers and two SNAs to supervise yard time daily</p> <p>Using toilets during yard time</p> <p>Children to use their own class toilets during yard</p> <p>Permission will be required and only one child, as much as possible, to use toilets at a time</p> <p>Use of Toilet Tags x 2 to support this</p>
Risk	Wet Yard
Solution	<p>Children to remain at Pods</p> <p>Toys/games allocated to each pod weekly</p>
Risk	Group work
Solution	Group work tasks may continue but must be within pods
Risk	PE

Solution	As much as possible, children grouped in pods during PE For larger games i.e. these will occur in bubbles Resources to be cleaned after use
Risk	Requirement for Movement/Reward Breaks
Solution	Some pupils require the above breaks These will continue with the SNA. Child and SNA to keep 2m apart where possible
Risk	Use of children toilets
Solution	Children in Middle and Senior Room, and the ASD Class, to use toilets in their classroom Junior Room to use toilets in hall As much as possible, only one child allowed to use toilets at any one time Children to be given regular reminders about the importance of washing hands and showing videos how to wash hands
Risk	Corridor
Solution	Children will be accessing and leaving classes at different areas so will not be passing by each other regularly Children will be taught and reminded to walk on the left side of the corridor Children will be reminded and taught about respiratory etiquette in case of sneezing, coughing in the corridor
Risk	Access to the Office
Solution	The office cannot be accessed by anyone while Pauline is in work. Communication with Pauline can be done through the hatch in the office door Photocopying, as much as possible, to be done by staff after school. If not, prior to 8.30 am. Hands to be washed and sanitised before entering the office. Photocopier to be wiped down after use. Children cannot access the office.
Risk	Access to/use of staffroom
Solution	Staff members to wash own utensils Pauline/Lynn to fill and boil kettle each morning and prior to breaks Bring own cups etc Only one staff member at a time to access staff room Use of SET Room during break times to allow 2m physical distancing between staff
Risk	Staff toilet
Solution	Stocks of wipes will be kept in staff toilet. Staff are asked to wipe down taps, handles etc themselves after use Hand sanitiser to be used prior to entering toilet
Risk	Classroom bins

Solution	Sixth class children will no longer empty and recycle classroom bins. This will be done by the school cleaner. Children to bring their rubbish home.
Risk	Child/Staff member displaying signs/symptoms of Covid-19
Solution	See Response Plan Office to be used as the Isolation space
Risk	Parent/Guardians and Contractors accessing school
Solution	See Response Plan Appointments with principal required before entering school Late arrivals – for ASD, Middle and Senior Rooms, knock at external class door. For Junior Room, knock at the window of the classroom and Jonathan, James or Pauline will bring the child to class.
Risk	Children (or staff) coming to school when unwell
Solution	Staff self-declaration form must be filled out 3 days prior to returning to work (oral submission acceptable after further closures) See response plan for details on procedures for children/staff who are unwell
Risk	First Aid
Solution	See COVID response plan for first aid procedures First Aid pack left at front door during yard time Staff members on duty to administer first aid
Risk	Substitute teachers
Solution	A panel of three substitute teachers to cover the Blessington and wider area in the event of teacher illness. Angela to cover Jonathan, in the Junior Room every Tuesday, to enable administrative work.
Risk	Further Covid-19 Supports
Solution	Fiona is the Lead Worker Representative (LWR) and Pauline is the deputy LWR. The responsibilities and available training are laid out in the DES Return to School document. There will be regular review of these procedures between all stakeholders of the school.
Risk	Upkeep of supplies
Solution	Jonathan, Fiona and Pauline will check for supplies of PPE, sanitiser at entrances and in classrooms, wipes in each room etc.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Risk	Hygiene Training
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Solution	Staff to be trained by DES in August Staff reminded to check training videos after subsequent closures. Children to undertake SPHE Lessons related to hand respiratory hygiene
Risk	BETNS Deep Cleaning
Solution	School Deep-cleaned in August Cleaner to return for two days prior to school reopening after further closures to deep clean the school.
Risk	Access/Availability of hand sanitisers/PPE
Solution	See Response Plan Hand sanitisers situated at entrances of school and classrooms, and in other strategic areas SNAs and SET Teachers to wear medical-grade masks
Risk	Children not practising proper hand hygiene
Solution	See Response Plan SPHE lessons Posters displayed in toilets Parents ensure hands are fully clean before school Daily hand-washing routines James to assist with handwashing of junior pupils (taking appropriate precautions themselves) SNAs and teachers to observe and check hands when necessary
Risk	Attending to intimate care needs of a child
Solution	SNA/Teacher to wear PPE as required including medical grade face masks.
Risk	Maintenance of cleanliness
Solution	Principal will meet with Sophie in August to liaise about cleaning arrangements Additional cleaning – three hours per day Monday to Friday Cleaning Checklist to be used by Sophie Principal will liaise with staff in August about their responsibilities with cleaning Staff to wipe down surfaces daily Children will be constantly reminded at an age-appropriate level about how they can help maintain cleanliness of their own areas

Communication

Risk	Ineffective communication of new procedures (to parents)
Solution	Risk assessment and COVID plan to be shared with Parent/Guardians in August Parents asked to email questions/suggestions/queries prior to school reopening COVID risk assessment and plan to put on school website Reminders about procedures to be sent via regular emails (as well as any changes that may need to be implemented) Risk Assessment and Covid Plan to be updated based on health advice
Risk	Ineffective communication of new procedures (to children)
Solution	Teachers will consistently remind children about procedures and also use SPHE lessons as a method to do so Child friendly signage to be put up at entrances, corridors, bathrooms, sink areas, classrooms
Risk	Non-compliance with new procedures
Solution	BETNS will work with children and parent/guardians in a positive and supportive way to ensure procedures are followed However, children and parent/guardians who do not comply with procedures, after supports and reminders have been given, will be directed to the Code of Behaviour
Risk	Meetings (staff meetings, BoM, etc)
Solution	Zoom meetings will be used where possible for BoM meetings Staff meetings will be held after school with 2m physical distancing During remote learning, BoM and staff meetings will be held remotely.
Risk	Student Council meetings
Solution	A smaller SC will be elected this year Two children from the middle room and two from the Senior Room SC to meet monthly in SET Room, or outside if possible SC to have a say in organisational matters of BETNS including Covid-19 measures
Risk	Swimming
Solution	BETNS to consult with K Leisure in Naas. Parent/Guardians to be informed and updated on potential swimming lessons for all classes. .
Risk	Other out-of-school activities
Solution	BETNS will discuss and liaise with the library, other services and bus companies to establish if these activities can occur. Parent/Guardians to be consulted, informed and updated.

Wellbeing

Risk	Mental health (children, staff, parents)
Solution	Staff will be reminded about resources available e.g. 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 School will liaise with NEPS when necessary Parents will be made aware of CAHMS service when necessary Principal will continue to make himself available for all members of the school community who are in difficulty SPHE lessons will be continue used as time to promote mental health with the children Staff will endeavour to make the return to school as stress-free as possible for the children and engage in conversations about children's concerns where appropriate

Afterschool Activities

Risk	After-school activities
Solution	To be postponed until further HSE/DES guidance. Reassess prior to that

Junior Infant/ASD Class Transition

Risk	Junior infants transition
Solution	Induction Day on Friday 27 th August for new children and their families in Junior Infants and the ASD Class One family in school at a time Families to utilise school grounds prior to entering with Jonathan and Lynn 2m physical distancing New families visit in June 2022 – assess closer to the time. Potential to visit after school, one family each time.