



Re-opening of Coláiste Chillíain for the 2020-2021 School Year.

I hope you and your family are well. In these uncertain times school can play an important role in establishing routine and normality in young peoples' lives. We are so looking forward to welcoming our school community back

We have been working on a plan to reopen the school in line with the Department of Education guidelines. The underlying rationale behind our planning has been the health and safety of our pupils and staff. The most effective manner is to keep the school Covid-19 free and to ensure, as far as is practical that the virus is kept out of the school.

Parents will play a very important role in our plan. If a pupil is displaying any of the symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell, high temperature, etc.) we would ask you not to send your child to school. It would also be prudent to contact your GP. We expect all pupils who have been on holiday abroad in countries NOT on the Government's 'Green List' to self-isolate for two weeks before returning to school.

If you are contacted by the school due to your son/daughter feeling unwell it is imperative that arrangements are in place to collect him/her quickly and safely. To this effect it is important that contact details are correct and up to date. This can be checked on VS Ware.

- In school we have re-organised the school timetable and class structure to facilitate social distancing. We are moving to one-hour class periods to minimise student movement throughout the day. Instead of 9 periods a day we will have 6 (plus a short tutorial meeting). On Wednesdays we will have 4 periods (plus tutorial). The time allocated to each subject will remain in line with Department of Education requirements. Classes will commence @ 08.30 and end @ 15.20 (12.50 on Wednesdays). Break time will remain 15 minutes and lunchtime will increase to 35 minutes.
- All classes will have a base room. Instead of the pupils moving from class to class, the teachers will go to the base classroom. We have maximised the space in our base rooms.
- Students are asked to bring a face covering, hand sanitiser, sanitising wipes to school with them. All students must wear a face covering anytime they are outside their classroom and in any classroom where social distancing cannot be maintained. If there is a medical issue regarding face covering, please contact the school.

- As classes will have base rooms we expect the individual classes to keep the room as neat and tidy as possible. If there is an issue the class will be expected to clean the room @ 15.20.
- We will have an open classroom door policy also to increase circulation and to supervise students between classes.
- Pupils will still have to move when attending a practical / choice subject. The specialist rooms will only be used for the relevant subjects.
- Pupils will be allowed to wear their PE uniform (school t-shirt and navy tracksuit bottoms) on the day they are timetabled for PE. This will eradicate the need for changing rooms and afford opportunity for washing of uniforms during the week.

- Break times could be difficult to manage and we propose the following to mitigate against these difficulties as far as is practical.

Am Sosa:

- 5th & 6th Years - choice to stay in base room or go to school yard.
- 1st Years Stáitse
- 3rd & 4th years – bialann
- 2nd years – seomra mór

Am Lóin:

- 5th & 6th years have permission (with parental consent) to leave the school grounds
 - 1st – 4th years – same as am sosa.
- We would encourage pupils to go to the school yard to maximise their exposure to fresh air and to partake in some exercise to make up for not moving from room to room.
- We have 10 sanitation stations installed throughout the school. Hand sanitisers will also be installed in every classroom.
- We will disinfect every base classroom as well as any practical room used every day. The disinfectant is the highest standard required for Covid-19.
- Practical classes will be able to disinfect after every session before a new group enters the room and use the same equipment.
- We will also take everyone's temperature on entering the school building and in the event of a consistently high temperature we will send the pupil to our isolation area and contact the parents. We have designated the reception room at the main door as our Covid-19 isolation room.

- We are also introducing a one-way system in the school to reduce potential contact. There will also be one entrance and one exit for the pupils for the same reason.
- Extra cleaning staff will be employed to assist in our efforts to ensure best cleaning practice.
- A School Co-ordinator for Covid-19 will be appointed who will ensure compliance with statutory obligations and in the event of an outbreak that the school follows the required procedures.
- All staff will be required to wear face coverings when it is impossible to maintain a 2m distance in a teaching and learning environment.
- Parental and visitor access to school will be restricted to essential purposes only.
- Covid-19 signage has been erected throughout the school.
- The use of lockers is under review and will be communicated to you at a later date.

As you can understand the steps outlined above constitute a major change in how Coláiste Chillian operates. In order to acclimatise to these changes we will be staggering the return of pupils. All year groups will be inducted into the new procedures on their return to school.

We expect full cooperation from our school community in implementing these new procedures. They are designed to prevent the introduction and/or spread of Covid-19. If this cooperation is not forthcoming the school's code of behaviour will be implemented.

The following calendar is how we will commence the 2020-2021 school year:

September 1 st Tuesday	– Bliain 1 (8.30 – 10.30)				
September 2 nd Wednesday	– Bliain 1 (8.30 – 10.30)	Bliain 3 & (8.30 – 10.30)	Bliain 6 (8.30-10.30)		
September 3 rd Thursday	– Bliain 1 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 2 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 3 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 5 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 6 (8.30 – 12.50)
September 4 th Friday	– Bliain 2 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 3 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 5 (8.30-12.50)	Bliain 6 (8.30 – 12.50)	

September 7 th Monday	– ALL years (bliain 4 ag tosú) Full day.				
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We recognise that there is a level of anxiety surrounding the reopening of schools. We are confident that the measures we have taken will offer us all, students, staff and parents a level of protection. We will continue to endeavour to keep our school community safe.

Is muidne le meas,

Feargal Ó Giolláin – Príomhoide

Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill – Leas-Príomhoide