

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Tarbert Comprehensive School

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. Monday next March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 will see the return of our LC2 & LCA2 Students. We look forward to welcoming them back and continuing with our face to face tuition. In advance of their return and indeed the return of all year groups in the coming weeks, there are a few items I wish to bring to your attention so as to let you know of the procedures the school will use when re-opening.

### Covid Control Measures

The Covid Control measures as previously announced remain in place and have been augmented as part of the Covid-19 Response Plan. All previously published material can be accessed and viewed on the School website.

### Dates

The DES have issued the reopening dates as follows (subject to public health advice);

- Monday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – LC2 & LCA2
- Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 – LC1 & LCA1
- Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 – all remaining year groups

### Return to School Form

Students can only return to school once they submit a signed HSE Return to School form. The Form is available with this letter as Appendix 1 or on the app. It must be presented on day one of arrival. No student will be allowed access to school until this is done.

### Assemblies

An online assembly will be held for each year group in advance of their return to school. Covid-19 procedures will be re-iterated. Students are asked to log in to those assemblies when notified by email.

### Enhanced cleaning

The School has been extensively cleaned during the lockdown period and on the student's return the **enhanced cleaning regiment** will resume each day. The cooperation of all students will be vital in maintaining a Covid free environment for our community.

### Student cleaning

Each teacher will spray each student desk with disinfectant and students will then wipe down their own desk and chair at the end of the class. **Students must have their own cloth** (as previously supplied) to complete this task.

### Parental visits

It is vital that any parents coming to the school do so by **prior appointment or contact through the office**. In order to limit the spread of the virus – 'drop in' visits will not be permitted. Students who attempt to contact parents themselves will be reprimanded. Naturally any student who falls ill during the school day will be collected by their parents immediately and sent home. Again I wish to stress that parents can only arrive to the School by **prior appointment or contact through the office**. Most communication will be via phone or email. Unplanned arrivals to school will not be accommodated.

### Face Mask

The School prepared a student **PPE welcome kit** last August consisting of hand sanitiser, face masks, gloves (for some) and visor. I am asking parents to ensure students have a sufficient amount of their own reusable face masks for the duration of the school week (at least 3 a day).

### Health & Illness

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if feeling unwell - those who have Covid symptoms or suspect they have the virus must stay out of school. This is an absolute must so as to reduce the threat of the spread of the virus. Any child that becomes unwell will be isolated near the office area and parents will be requested to collect them immediately.

It should also be noted: ++

- Symptoms of Covid-19 include: high temperature, cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste. Any student that has Covid symptoms must not attend school – instead they are to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- A parent or student is not to attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as contact for a person with COVID-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- A student that develops COVID symptoms at school are to bring this to the attention of one of the teaching staff who will send them to the office area where office staff will contact home. Under no circumstances are students to text home. No visitors are allowed to the school without a prior appointment or invitation from the school;
- All students who leave school with suspected Covid symptoms must immediately contact their GP and have a Covid test. Students can only return to School following a negative Covid test result.
- The School should be contacted immediately if a student is diagnosed with Covid-19.
- All visitors to the school during the day will arrive by prior arrangement with the Principal and will be received at the main office area;
- Students are not to congregate close to each other or in large groups so as to decrease interaction. Physical distancing between students and students, staff and staff as well as staff and students will also be observed. Social physical contacts such as hugs and handshakes are not allowed;
- Students should avoid sharing personal items. Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets, the contact surface of the device will be cleaned at the end of each class and hand hygiene encouraged;

### School entrances

School entrances are specifically labelled for each particular year group. Each student is asked to use the appropriate entrance for their year group, as indicated.

### Conclusion

As you can appreciate, the reopening of the School is quite onerous. However be assured staff are working hard to ensure a successful opening. As previously, our approach to reopening will be guided by applying common sense, adopting a balanced approach, doing everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the School, being aware of continuing to observe physical distancing, good hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette. I want to thank parents for your patience and cooperation to date and look forward to seeing our students return.

Kind Regards



**Richard Prendiville**

**PRINCIPAL**

**Appendix 1**

*\*Managers name = Mr R. Prendiville*

*\*Name of setting = Tarbert Comprehensive School*



**Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form**

<b>Child's Name:</b>	<b>Manager's Name:</b>
<b>Parents/Guardian's Name:</b>	
<b>Name of Setting:</b>	
This form is to be used when children are returning to the setting after any absence.	
<b>Declaration:</b> I have no reason to believe that my child has infectious disease and I have followed all medical and public health guidance with respect to exclusion of my child from educational facilities.	
Signed _____	
Date: _____	