

19-10-20 @ 4pm



Tarbert Comprehensive School

**RE: Confirmed Covid 19 cases in the school**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has come to my attention that some negative commentary and offensive messaging has been directed at and about some of our students in regard to recent positive Covid testing.

I wish parents/guardians to please have a word with their children so that this does not happen again. I would especially like to point out the following:

- No one is at fault for being diagnosed with Covid 19 – no more than anyone can be blamed for getting sick. The sources of Covid can be multiple and despite the best of precautions, the virus can be picked up by anyone at any time. Similarly, no one can be blamed for being a close contact – this virus does not distinguish between individuals we associate with;
- A blaming approach could potentially lead to a scenario where people do not come forward if tested positive and then later lead to difficulties in contact tracing. It is therefore vital that support, empathy and compassion are afforded to students and their families affected at this time;
- As a society we have a collective responsibility in managing the current national Covid numbers. Assigning blame is therefore counterproductive as we all share a responsibility in our efforts to reduce growing numbers;
- Rumours, conjecture and speculation are completely pointless and do nothing positive but merely add to peoples own anxiety's and fear. Please listen to official School updates for factual information;
- All students are subject to the Schools' Anti Bullying Policy and their actions in this matter – including directing negative or hostile messages of blame, inside or outside of School time are subject to reprimand by the School authority in line with the Code of Behaviour.

I want to thank parents/guardians for delivering this message to their children.

We are living in unprecedented times and it is vital that fear and anxiety does not undermine common decency, mutual respect and our sense of community. We are all in this together and we can only prevail by working together.

Kind Regards

**Mr Richard Prendiville, PRINCIPAL**

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