



RE: Removing Restrictions - Information for Students, Parents & Guardians

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware the Government has accepted the recommendations of NPHET in relation to removing restrictions relating to mask wearing and physical distancing in schools. Please see below further details regarding the removal of physical distancing requirements in school.

Removal of Physical Distancing

As physical distancing is no longer a requirement in schools, the measures put in place to ensure physical distancing will be removed. It is expected that the changes will take approximately one week to implement and will be done in a phased way.

Satellite Station

It is expected that the Satellite Station will be put out of use over the course of this week. Extra desks and chairs will be put in classrooms, so that all students in a class group can be in the classroom with their teacher.

Staggered Breaks/Lunches

The staggered breaks & lunches are built into the timetable, so they will have to continue until the end of the school year.

Five Minute Early Finish

The 5 minute early finish for various year groups will cease from tomorrow and all classes will finish in accordance with the normal school hours.

Entry to School

The Assembly Hall will no longer be used as an entry point in the morning. Therefore, year groups/staff may use the main front door for entry.

Tutor Classes/Base Rooms

Base Rooms will be assigned to Base Class Groups as soon as possible. This will be for roll call with tutors which will resume at 8.37am each morning.

Teaching & Learning

All of the usual approaches to teaching and learning such as group work, practical work, pair work, movement around the room may resume. Music, singing, dancing and the use of musical instruments may resume.



Lockers

Lockers have been returned to a number of year groups. We are awaiting the delivery of new lockers this week and as a consequence 6th years and most of 3a6 will need to continue with the book timetable until the lockers arrive for them. All 1st, 2nd and 5th year students have lockers and will no longer need to use a book timetable.

PE

Students will continue to wear their PE tracksuit into school on the day when they have PE only. This arises from the fact that the building project will mean the changing rooms are out of use.

Mask wearing

It is no longer a requirement for staff or students to wear a mask in school. Staff and students can continue to wear a mask if they wish to do so. We will continue to make masks available on request to staff and students.

Hand Hygiene

We should continue to promote good hygiene. Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean). Hand sanitiser will continue to be made available in school.

Temperature Check

The completion of a temperature check on entry is no longer expected by the school. Staff and students, who wish, may continue to use the temperature check at their own discretion.

Ventilation

Rooms should continue to be ventilated by having windows open.

Assembly

Assembly will resume. As soon as the relevant Assembly Day is decided for each year group we will let you know.

Staying at home if you have symptoms

The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms remains, both for students and staff. One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school.

School transport and Face coverings/mask wearing

With effect from Monday 28 February the wearing of face coverings/masks on school transport will no longer be mandatory but will continue to be advised. All other measures relating to hygiene (including the provision of hand sanitiser and additional cleaning of service) and **pre assigned seating** will remain in place subject to further review



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I once again thank our students and staff for their adherence to the safety measures that we had in place over the last two years. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces today!

Wishing a safe and happy term to all our students, parents and staff.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Bernadette Fitzgerald

Principal

Bernadette Fitzgerald
Principal