




COVID-19 Policy Statement

Coláiste Cois Siúire is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our students. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The Board of Management/Kilkenny and Carlow ETB and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

- continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our stakeholders (BOM, staff, students and parents)
- provide up-to-date information to our staff and students on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
- agree with staff, a Lead Worker Representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan in relation to summer provision
- inform all staff and students of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the public health guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff and students engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- provide instructions for staff and students to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
- implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions.

This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s), who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed: 

Principal

Date: 13th August 2020



When will school be opening?

Friday 28th August: Book Rental Day (a new online payment system will be made available in advance via Way2Pay)

Monday 31st August: 1st Year Induction only 0930-1200

Tuesday 1st September: TY and 6th Years only 0900-1315

Wednesday 2nd September: **All Classes Present until 1235**

Travel to/from school

You can travel to and from school in the normal way. The school bus system operated by Bus Éireann will be running. The wearing of face coverings in line with HSE guidelines is strongly recommended.

What will be different this year?

Coláiste Cois Siúire is able to achieve the distancing guidelines set out by the Dept. of Education. Here is how school will look this September. This might change as we go along, but this is how things will start off.

Due to the constantly shifting landscape around COVID-19, and the logistical challenges faced by the school transport scheme : school will finish at 1555 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and, at 1235 each Wednesday.

Morning tutorial starts at 0850 each morning. All break and lunch times will remain the same (1100-1115, and, 1315-1355).

Please note that any changes to the school transport scheme regarding increased capacity will be communicated by Bus Éireann.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Every student and teacher will be issued a visor and reusable face mask. Visors must be worn inside the building at all times. Face masks can be worn if a student wishes or if a teacher requests that they should be worn. Both visor and face masks should be carried by students at all times. Students not in compliance with the above will not be admitted to the school and will be placed in the COVID isolation area to await collection by a parent/guardian.

There are 25 sanitising stations around the building and in every classroom. These should be used frequently during the day. Each bathroom is equipped with adequate hand washing facilities. Further induction around hand sanitising and respiratory etiquette will be provided on return to school.

Entering the building

Entry to the school building is via the normal student entrance. Sanitise at the sanitise station upon entry. For students who wish to attend Breakfast Club, it will be in the main school hall this year. It is only possible to seat 50 people at a time and each seat is 1m apart. We would ask that students do not delay in Breakfast Club to allow others access who may be waiting. When finished, place your tray in the cleaning area and exit via the fire escape in the south-west corner. Re-enter the school building via the normal student entrance and sanitise upon entry.



For students not wishing to attend breakfast club entry is via the normal student entrance. Sanitise at the sanitise station and proceed to your base classroom.

Classrooms

Each student will have a base classroom and assigned seat. Base classrooms and seats will be assigned to students during their induction on their respective first days back to school.

Teachers will move to the classrooms instead of students moving every 40 minutes. Students will still need to move to some rooms (for option/practical classes etc.) but we will minimise movement as much as possible to limit interactions. If a class is leaving a classroom, time will be allowed to wipe down the surfaces and touch points used in the classroom.

Option subjects/PE/practical subjects will operate as normally as possible. Any changes to individual classes/subjects will be outlined by teachers.

Lockers

Locker use will not be possible in the first term. Students should pack the books required for each day in their school bag. Bags and books are stored at the students' assigned seat in their base classroom each day until the end of the day.

The school will notify parents via text which books are required for their son/daughters first day back. It is not necessary to bring all of the books for every subject on the first day back.

Toilets

First Years will have their own assigned toilets (male and female) on a one-at-a-time basis.

Second and Third Years are assigned to the Junior Toilets (male and female) on a two-at-a-time basis.

Transition Years are assigned to the Senior Toilets (male and female) on a two-at-a-time basis.

Sixth Years will have their own assigned toilets (male and female) on a one-at-a-time basis.

Break and Lunch Time

All break and lunch times will remain the same (1100-1115, and, 1315-1355).

Arrangements for zones during break and lunch times will be in place and this will be outlined on your return to school. It will still be possible to order lunch from Centra if you wish.

Personal Responsibility

Training and information around how school will operate this term will be provided for all students in an age-appropriate manner. Things will be a little different, however, the important job of learning and teaching will go on. To support this, each student is asked to be aware that the success of our school community functioning this term is hinged on the personal responsibility of each and every person to follow the health and safety guidelines that are set out by the HSE and the Department of Education.



Uniform

Normal school uniform is required as always. There are no changes to the uniform at present. There is no advice currently to suggest that uniforms need to be washed every evening.

Will Online Remote Learning Continue?

Teachers will be supporting students using a blend of classroom-based learning, and, online learning. This means you may be using Teams for submitting homework assignments or accessing notes/books from time to time. For those that cannot attend school for any reason, school work can be accessed via Teams.

What if there is a suspected case of COVID-19?

The school will care for its students at all times. Following health and safety guidelines set out by the Dept. of Education and the HSE, students with a suspected case of COVID-19 will be asked to wait in a designated sick-bay area. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and further advice will be provided. All action taken will be in line with Appendix 7 of the COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of post primary schools (2020, p.43).

Up to date information from the HSE on [when to keep your son/daughter at home is posted here](#) (correct at time of writing on 24th August 2020).

Contact Log

Coláiste Cois Siúire is obliged to keep a log of all staff, students and visitors to the school. Visitors to the school (aside from staff and students) must contact the school and make an appointment to gain access to the school building.

Is this how school will be all year?

No calendar month has been the same since March. Generally, the situation has improved dramatically across the country and, with hard work and personal responsibility, we hope that school life will gradually return to what we all experienced pre-COVID.

It will take a couple of weeks to get used to new routines but, in time, they will become the new normal and you will have plenty of advice, help & support from your teachers.

As a community we have proven that when we work together and follow the guidelines it keeps the virus suppressed and keeps our families safe and well.

Keep checking the school website for updates. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

If you have any concerns please contact the school 051 895112 or info@colaistecoissiuire.ie