

Caherleaheen National School Risk Assessment August Reopening 2020

In line with the requirements of **Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005** (section 19) it is the policy of the Board of Management in Caherleaheen National School to address significant hazards and risks in the workplace, to assess the risks to safety, health and welfare and to control these risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

The Board is committed to the ongoing identification of hazards, the assessment of the appropriate risks and the introduction of controls to deal with them. In addition, staff are involved and participate in safety, health and welfare issues within the school and are encouraged to identify and report any potential hazards that may exist and to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out.

This revised Risk Assessment includes all relevant updates and necessary control measures to minimise the risk of staff and others being exposed to Covid-19. It is envisaged that additional reviews will be undertaken on a regular basis and in line with Government and public health advice to ensure that all information remains accurate, that controls are appropriate and where necessary risks are reassessed.

A **hazard** is anything with the potential to cause harm to the safety, health or welfare of staff, students, visitors and contractors – a wet or slippery floor, an unguarded machine, stressful work, a blocked entrance, hazardous chemicals etc. Hazards may be classified as physical, chemical, biological, environmental or human.

A **risk** is the likelihood that someone will be harmed by a hazard and the severity of that harm.

Control measures:

A control measure is an applied measure that reduces the level of risk. Control measures can be applied at the planning stage, can comprise physical measures, can be management issues and can include training. Good control measures will require a combination of some or all of these.

Control measure principles:

Schedule 3 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 lists the Principles of Prevention and the Board of Management undertakes to apply these principles (where practicable) in dealing with all risks within the school:

- Avoidance of risks

- Evaluation of unavoidable risks
- Combating of risks at source
- Adaptation of work to the individual
- Adaptation of workplace to technical progress
- Replacement of dangerous articles, substances or systems of work by safe or less dangerous articles, substances or systems of work
- Priority to collective protective measures over individual protective measures
- Development of an adequate prevention policy which takes account of technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social factors and the influence of factors relating to the working environment
- Appropriate training and instructions to employees.

<u>Who may be affected?</u>	<u>Identified Risks</u>	<u>Controls</u>	<u>Risk Rating with Controls</u>	<u>Action Implementation</u>
<p>All Staff</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Parents/ Guardians/ Childminders</p> <p>Persons currently deemed most at risk of Complications if they catch the Coronavirus are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer •pregnant women 	<p>Spread of Covid-19 virus</p> <p>Dropping off & Collection from school</p> <p>Entering School Grounds</p> <p>Gates / turnstiles</p> <p>Entering School Touch points, door handles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered opening & closing times will be adopted. (8:30 am – 8:40 am & 8:45am – 8:55am) • Arrangements for dropping off and picking up pupils from the school will be organised to maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe social distance between drivers/parents/guardians and all school staff. • Visual cue(red/ yellow flag) displayed to alert parents when children can enter the school grounds. • The gates will be closed for five minutes from 8:40 a, to 8:45 am to alleviate a large volume of people gathering at the gate. • Gates to be monitored by two staff members. • Main gate to be opened . • Turnstiles not in use • Main doors will be placed on hooks • All children/ staff must sanitise their hands when entering the school. • Doors will be hooked back • .Children will proceed immediately to the classroom • Sanitisers provided outside each classroom door • Classrooms are set up in pods in the junior classes and desks are 1 meter apart from 3rd class upwards • Teachers will supervise pupils in the classroom from 8:30 onwards 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Board of Management Principal All Staff Parents</p>

	Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will follow the arrows displayed and walk on the left hand side of the corridor when entering & exiting the building observing social distancing. 	Low	Board of Management Principal All Staff
	Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will sanitise before entering the bathroom • Children will wash hands after using the bathroom. • Blue paper towels can be used to dry hands rather than hand dryers • Paper towels placed in bin • Ventilation-use windows and access doors in toilets 	Medium Requires monitoring	
	Break Times & Yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered break times . • 10min gap between the first & second sos break • 10min gap between the first and second lunch break • Children will sanitise before eating • Children will be encouraged to use the bathroom prior to going out to play. • New yard duty rota set up : 2xSos and 2xLón • Children will play in their own designated area in the yard • Children will walk slowly into the school when the bell rings using the door assigned to their class 	Medium	
	Staffroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to staggered breaks the number of staff in the staffroom at any one time will be greatly reduced • All staff must sanitise prior to entering the staffroom • An extra table will allow staff to social distance more easily • All mugs, must be placed in the dishwasher after use. Teachers and assistants asked to bring their cutlery and plates home each day • Identical mugs were removed from the staffroom leaving only different coloured, easily identifiable mugs . 	Low/ Medium	

	<p>Pupils Seating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff may chose to bring in their own mug/flask each day • Staff are responsible for cleaning personal items that have been brought to work and items handled at work or during breaks. • Staff advised to clean personal items that they have brought to work (e.g. mobile phones) and to avoid leaving them down on communal surfaces or they will need to clean the surface after the personal item is removed • There will be a ten minute gap between the two breaks, so that staffroom can be wiped down/sanitised. • High frequency touch points will be wiped down • Jun Inf to Second Class will be seated in pods of 4 to 6. Pods will not share equipment/toys/resources unless sterilized • Third to Sixth Class pupils will be seated 1m apart from each other • Windows open 		<p>Board of Management Principal All Staff</p>
	<p>Face Coverings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff wear coverings when 2m distance from pupils and staff cannot be maintained 	<p>Medium</p>	<p>BoM Principal Staff</p>
	<p>Library Books/ PM Readers Textbooks Homework Sharing resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library books/ workbooks/Readers to be placed in a container on Thursday/Friday & quarantined for 72 hours. • Some textbooks will remain at home for several days before returning on Thursday/ Friday. These textbooks or workbooks will not be used by staff or pupil for a minimum of 72 hours. • Each child will have two homework copies. One for Maths & the second for all other subjects. • Sharing of resources will be minimised. • Pupils will not share personal equipment, food, books etc 	<p>Low</p>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered home times Robins will be ready at exits for 2:25p.m- 2:35p.m & Blackbirds: 2:40p.m – 2:50p.m 		

