



Holy Family School for the Deaf

Navan Road, Cabra, Dublin DO7 TH79

: 01 838 0058 | F: 01 838 0230 | E: info@holyfamilydeafschool.ie

Principal: Eimear O'Rourke, M. Ed | Deputy Principal: Eugene Doyle

COVID-19 Policy Statement

Holy Family School for the Deaf is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM 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 staff
- provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct handwashing techniques
- agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
- inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff 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 pupils 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.



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I can confirm that the additions to COVID-19 Response Plans required by 'Work Safely Protocol' Appendix 3 have been implemented.

Addendum to Holy Family Covid 19 Policy Statement and Response Plan

Additional measures will be taken upon the reopening of our school from 11/02/2021. These measures will be in place to help to mitigate the risks associated with the significant increase of incidence associated with COVID-19 within Ireland. These measures may be reconsidered when COVID transmission rates in the community have reduced significantly.

Addendum 1: Face Coverings

1. As per HPSC guidelines and DES directives surgical grade masks will be provided for SNAs and teachers. In-line with the recommendation that these masks be changed every 4 hours, each teacher and SNA will be supplied with 2 masks per day.
2. Masks must be stored in a labelled and sealed Ziplock bag when not in use. Used masks should be securely disposed of in the general waste bins.
3. Teacher and SNA masks should only be removed for the purposes of education i.e. communicating at a safe distance with pupils and for eating & drinking. An alternative Clear Mask for this purpose can be provided upon request Clearmasks (<https://clearfailtemask.ie>)
4. In the best interest of the health and safety of the school community, **post primary pupils will be advised to wear cloth masks or surgical masks. SEN pupils who find this difficult can be excused or will be asked to wear a visor.** SNAs will distribute visors to these pupils in the morning.
Pupil masks should only be removed for the purposes of care needs, education i.e. communicating with their teacher or SNA at a safe distance. Therefore, masks will be worn on the corridors, toilets, playgrounds and during breaks. Pupils who cannot communicate with friends while wearing a mask should communicate 2Ms apart. It is the role of teachers and SNAs on supervision duty to gently remind pupils of this rule and the reasons for it.
5. As with all children, pupils with additional care needs should not be required to wear a face covering if they are **under 13 years of age.** Those who choose to wear a face covering may do so.

Addendum: 3

Pupils must continue to wear one mask on the bus and use a separate one during school hours.

Early Intervention
T: 01 868 9910

Primary
T: 01 868 9910

Post Primary
T: 01 838 0058

Boarding
infoboarding@cidp.ie



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Addendum 4:

As per the recommended *Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools rooms and the school building* Holy Family will be fully ventilated at all times. Staff and students are advised to wear extra layers of clothing such as a **warm fleece, hoodie, coat** to keep warm.

Addendum 9:

Staff will not transfer to other sections of the school i.e. to provide PE, Music/Choir, additional ISL support or for any other purpose other than that sanctioned by the Principal.

Addendum 10.

Specific and detailed protocols have been designed and agreed for staff in each of the 3 sections of the school i.e. Early Intervention, Primary & Post Primary to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid 19.

Signed: *Jr Paddy D Boyle* Date: **9th February 2021**
Chairperson Board of Management