

Straffan National School Covid Response Plan 2021/22

Parent Section

It is important that parents have a clear understanding of the benefits and risk of returning to school and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in a childcare centre, school or in the home.

The following are protocols that are put in place to safeguard the health and safety of each other. Parents are expected to abide by them and failure to do so may result in a parent being instructed to remove a child from the school building/yard, and or to leave the school premises themselves. If serious breaches of safety measures occur, the board and or the police may be informed or called if needed.

[Please see DES resources for children and families.](#)

As per HSE guidelines under no circumstances is a parent to bring a child to school if -

- **If the child is exhibiting any symptoms of Covid 19.** Children who are generally unwell and presenting with any of the following symptoms of coronavirus (including the Delta variant):
 - A fever (High temperature -38 degrees Celsius or above)
 - A new Cough (this can be any kind of a cough, not just dry)
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste- this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
 - Fatigue
 - Aches and Pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:

- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy noses
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- **If a child has been outside of the country in the 14 days prior to August 30th, Government guidance should be followed.**

- If the child has been in contact with any family member and or other person who has Covid-19(refer to the [HSPC guidance](#) for more details). Also see the [HSE Isolation Guide for Children](#) updated in August 2021.
- If the child has been in contact with any family member and or other person who has symptoms and awaiting test results. See [A Parents Guide to Close Contacts in School.pdf \(hpsc.ie\)](#)

Arrival and departure procedures for children and parents:

Parents must arrive on time for leaving in and collecting their child.

- Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised are allowed to drop off and collect children.
- As part of the Green School's 'Walk to School' initiative, children should walk to school as much as possible. Older children should be dropped off in less congested areas and walk the rest of the way to school.
- **Parents should wash their children's uniform as regularly as possible and their child should change out of their uniform as soon as possible. If at all possible avoid going to supermarkets or other crowded areas with the uniform on.**
- Children are to go directly to their class from 9.05am. There will be no lining up in the yard.
- Children are to enter the school via specific doors, **please see below**. Parents are not permitted to enter the school building with their child.
- Under **no circumstances are parents to linger** in the yard after the child has been handed over but are to leave immediately.
- Parents and children are **not to congregate in groups or stand around chatting**.
- Parents must remain with their child until handover has taken place.
- Parents must ensure their child remains at their side at all times and that their child does not interact with other children.
- If a parent has more than one child, the other children stay with them and having handed over the first child, they may proceed to the next entry point.
- Home times will be staggered for classes from 2.45pm Bus children will leave. Please see **entrance and exit routes** below.

Guidance for Parents and pupils

- On **arrival**, all pupils to proceed directly to class through allocated route and door - no yard line up

- All classes enter/ exit school building grounds through an allocated door only.
- Pupils proceed through the most direct gate to their allocated door **on arrival**.
- JI - 4th classes allocated gate **on dismissal** (walked out by teachers due to staggered dismissal time)
- 5th & 6th pupils - **walked to the front of the sch/ basketball court by teachers**, to exit via the most convenient gate.
- **Staggered dismissal** times (to leave classrooms) to alleviate overcrowding (see below)

See below:

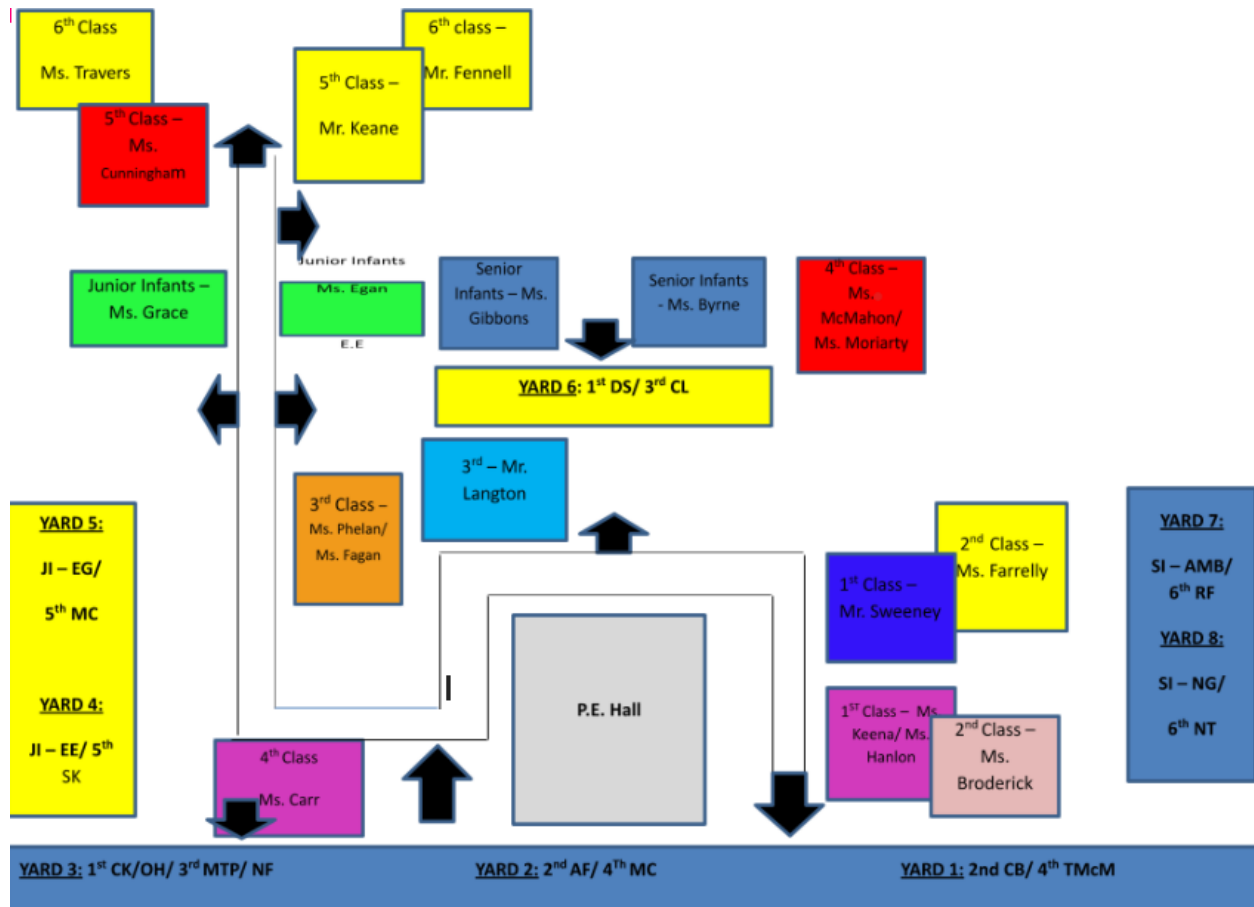
Junior Infants - Ms. Grace (1.50pm)	Enter/ exit school/ grounds through front main gate Proceed through junior infant yard Enter/ exit building through JI door
Junior Infants - Ms. Egan (1.55pm)	Exit school/ grounds through front main gate Proceed through junior infant yard Enter/ exit building through JI door
Senior Infants - Ms. Byrne (1.50pm)	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate Proceed across basketball court Enter/ exit building through SI door
Senior Infants - Ms. Gibbons (1.55pm)	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate Proceed across basketball court Enter/ exit building through SI door
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus children: 2.45pm (small gate) • Creche children: 2.45pm (main gate) 	
1st Class - Ms. Keena/ Ms. Hanlon (2.50pm)	Exit school grounds through front main gate Proceed across school yard in front of office Enter/ exit building through 1st/ 2nd class door (door beside maths press)
1st Class - Mr. Sweeney (Ms. Brosnan) (2.50pm)	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate Proceed across basketball court Enter/ exit building through back door (beside staff room)
2nd Class - Ms. Broderick (2.50pm)	Exit school grounds through front main gate Proceed across school yard in front of office Enter/ exit building through front 1st/ 2nd class door (door beside maths press/ under stairs) and up stairs
2nd Class - Ms. Farrelly (2.50pm)	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate Proceed along top of basketball court Enter/ exit building through front 1st/ 2nd class door (door beside maths press/ under stairs) and up stairs
3rd Class -	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate

Mr. Langton (2.55pm)	Proceed out through back door (beside staff room), across basketball court Enter/ exit building through back door (beside staff room) and turn right into classroom
3rd Class - Ms. Phelan/ Ms. Fagan (2.55pm)	Exit school grounds through front main gate Turn right leaving classroom. Proceed out JI doors, through JI carpeted yard, to front gate Enter/ exit building through Junior Infant door (through carpeted yard)
4th Class - Ms. McMahon / Ms. Moriarty (2.55pm)	Exit school grounds through front bottom gate Proceed across basketball court Enter/ exit directly in to class
4th Class - Ms. Carr (2.55pm)	Exit school grounds through front main gate Enter/ exit building through emergency door at back of classroom
5th Class - Mr. Keane (3pm)	Pupils to exit only through Junior Infant yard to main gate Enter building through new 5th class door (beside 5th class rooms, passing by school garden)
5th Class - Ms. Cunningham (3pm)	Pupils to exit only through Junior Infant yard to main gate Enter building through new 5th class door (beside 5th class rooms, passing by school garden)
6th Class - Ms. Travers (3pm)	Pupils to exit yard from basketball court to bottom gate Enter/ exit at back of new build (6th class door by new stairs) Proceed out towards sch garden and along basketball court
6th Class - Mr. Fennell (3pm)	Pupils to exit yard from basketball court to bottom gate Enter/ exit at back of new build (6th class door by new stairs) Proceed out towards sch garden and along basketball court

- Parents must wait outside the school in their cars and maintain social distancing in the evening time when waiting to collect a child. It is the adult's responsibility to maintain social distancing while waiting to collect their child.
- The junior and senior infants will go home exiting through different doors where possible starting at 1.50pm. Junior Infants will exit at the main entrance and Senior Infants will exit at the lower gate.
- All must leave the school immediately after collection.
- No parent will be allowed within the school building. If they must enter they will have to fill in a contact log form.
- **Communication with the school must take place by the phone or via the School App/online**

- **Should a matter of urgency arise for parents,** they must phone the office and make an appointment for access.
- Access will only be permitted once parents have used the hand sanitiser and are wearing a face mask. Once inside the school building they must maintain the required social distance and follow the directions of the principal/staff member.

Entrance/ Exit routes for Parent's Information:



Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- All visitors must phone beforehand before visiting the school.
- There will be a table outside for parents to drop forgotten items on so as to avoid unnecessary entry.
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived.

- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by Mandy. The parent will wait in the porch area to avoid having to sign the contact log form.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out. The “sign in /sign out” book will be left out in the porch wooden box.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so and must wear a mask.

Personal Equipment for Children

- In so far as possible, it is requested that all children will bring their own set of pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment (as stated in the school booklist).
- These set of pens, pencils and colours, rubbers etc will need to be kept in school at all times and should not go home.
- It is further requested that all items have the child’s name on them for ease of identification.
- Each child to bring in 500ml hand sanitizer which will be kept in the school and will be used under the guidance of the class teacher.
- Plastic lunch boxes are preferable and should be washed daily.
- All children to bring in a ‘bag for life’ shopping where children can store their coats while in class.
- It is not recommended that children attending primary school wear face-coverings.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school. See HSE guidelines [here](#).
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days in accordance with Government Guidance.
- Children who are generally unwell and presenting with any of the following symptoms of coronavirus (including the Delta variant):
 - A fever (High temperature -38 degrees Celsius or above)
 - A new Cough (this can be any kind of a cough, not just dry)
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties

- Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste- this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
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- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Children who don't attend school for any other reason, will be marked absent as normal. Education Welfare Officer should be contacted to seek further advice.

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time due to being in the very high risk category, the class teacher (and/or SET, where relevant) will provide suggested activities to support the child's learning at home. This will be shared with parents.

Teachers who are at risk of Covid 19 and can't come back to work may support children with their remote learning.

Additional Information For Parents:

[DE Posters for parents re: returning to school in September 2021](#)

[Video links for Junior Infants, SI-2nd and 3rd-6th classes.](#)

[A Parent's guide to Close Contacts](#)

[Multilingual Advice for parents](#)

[DE Letter re: school transport for parents](#)

[HSPC Isolation Guide](#)