

Ebrington Primary School & Nursery Unit



School RESTART Transition Plan June 2020

Ebrington Primary & Nursery School seeks to provide a caring secure and challenging environment in which all our pupils have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential – spiritually, socially, academically, physically, emotionally, morally and culturally and in which teaching and learning of academic excellence can occur with the co-operation and support of parents.

Dear Parent

During recent weeks, the school leadership team have been busily working on various scenarios on school RESTART for September 2020, the new academic year. This has involved consultation with school governors, staff and parents and included face to face meetings, online meetings and online surveys.

Obviously, any decision about school RESTART, and what best meets the needs of our school community, needs to be in line with any Government advice-both medical and scientific. It was pleasing to receive the DE guidance on Friday 19 June and, as previously informed, how closely our framework planning was to all guidance published.

As there is such fluidity currently with the response to Covid-19, and as continued lockdown restrictions are lifted, we need to be mindful of the flexibility to best meet the needs of the pupils, staff and parents as the Education system transitions from 'Lockdown' to a 'New Normal Education at School'.

We recognise the impact that the wider society and public health changes may have on transition plans and will, at all times, put the needs, health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff first and foremost.

Our overarching **KEY STRATEGY:**

Our key strategy in school will be to apply 'protective bubbles' within school. Under current DE guidance, protective bubbles are to be developed where it is not possible to maintain social distancing of 1 metre between pupils (based on 19 June guidance-may change). This will be explained in more detail throughout this plan. It should be noted that our Education Minister has made many suggestions since 19 June that social distancing in schools will not be the case come September, if NI continues on the positive pathway.

KEY AIMS through this strategy:

- to safely bring back all pupils and engage in face to face learning with school staff
- to provide necessary curriculum support to pupils as they return to the routine of the 'new school day'
- to provide opportunities for pupils to engage in activities developed to promote good emotional health and wellbeing

KEY CONSIDERATIONS in managing the implementation of this strategy:

- DE Guidance (19 June primary schools and 23 June pre-schools) and any subsequent published guidance material.
- School group and individual risk assessments.
- DE/EA risk assessments.
- Operational plan for RESTART, including safety measures.
- Enhanced cleaning regime and procedures in place.
- Additional staff employed throughout school (at least 2 adults in each classroom).
- PHA guidelines for suspected/ confirmed cases, and implications of this for school/ bubble.
- Surveys and views of governors, staff and parents & pupils.
- Induction of new Nursery and Year 1 intake, and transition to post-primary for outgoing Year 7 pupils.
- Adaptations to school Positive Behaviour policy, Intimate Care policy & Use of ICT policy.

It is our desired plan to have the school return to a 'safe normal' as soon as possible. The information presented in this document will provide you with an overview of this RESTART plan. The NI Assembly are likely to review legislation closer to the time of return to school, possible around mid-August, so if any changes are required, more information will be provided to parents.

Having engaged in numerous meetings with school principals in the Derry/ Londonderry area, it was agreed that a statement be issued to parents explaining that 'every school will operate slightly differently due to various circumstances at a local level, as each school's availability of staff, space and resources are different. All schools, however, will operate in line with following DE guidance.'

During the last 4-6 weeks, we have devised a number of school RESTART plans. **It is our current intention to open in the new academic year using PLAN B** (see highlighted section below):

Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole school is back in. <p>The school is in full operation, with all aspects of school life running normally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole school is back in. <p>Each class is operating under a protective bubble system. Additional outdoor time is built into the 'recovery' curriculum. There is a focus throughout term 1 on Numeracy, Literacy and pastoral support in each classroom. Dinners/ packed lunches eaten in classrooms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School is back, but through 'blended learning' <p>Blended learning takes place with pupils attending school 2 days each week/ 3 days remote learning. Family groups matched so that their class 'bubbles' are in on same day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockdown (school is closed) <p>Pupils/ staff are fully engaged in remote learning.</p>
<p>NO BREAKFAST CLUB/ AFTER SCHOOL CLUB IN OPERATION (to be kept under constant review)</p>			

Planned return dates:

Dates	Class	Details
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Primary 7	All P7 pupils should be available to return P7 pupils will initially be placed in 6 small groups for this one week only. There will be a focus on developing Literacy & Numeracy covered during P6 summer term, as well as pastoral activities. Majority of teachers engaging with P7 pupils during the week
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Nursery	Nursery Induction Programme Monday-Wednesday, Nursery parent & child 'stay and play' sessions (details provided by Nursery). Thursday & Friday, Nursery staff available to support P1 staff and pupils, if required.

Dates	Class	Details
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Primary 1	Primary 1 Induction Programme Monday-Thursday, will have 7-8 x P1 pupils attend a shortened daily session to aid transition from Nursery-P1.
Monday 31 August	ALL CLASSES OFF SCHOOL	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 1 September	ALL CLASSES RETURN TO SCHOOL IN 'PROTECTIVE BUBBLES'	P2-P7 pupils, as well as Speech & Language pupils, in school for their normal school days. (No S & L pupils on Fridays) P1 will initially operate with ½ classes-Tuesday/ Wednesday & Thursday/ Friday (details from P1). All P1 pupils in the following week Nursery will operate first of 3 intakes from Tuesday-Tuesday 1 st , Thursday 3 rd and Tuesday 8 th September (details from Nursery).

Arrival at school

All vehicular access should be to the shale pitch on Nelson Drive. This will be marked for parking bays and will operate a one-way system. Please ensure you drive safely and carefully, due to the increased pedestrian traffic around this area. **NO PARENT CARS SHOULD COME THROUGH THE MAIN SCHOOL GATES ON THE LIMAVADY ROAD. IF YOU HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.** The gates to this will open from 8:15am, to stop traffic congestion on the main roads. School pod doors will open from 8:40am, so we would encourage parents/ pupils to wait in their cars until nearer this time. Pedestrian access from the Limavady Road is permitted, and we ask all to ensure they use the footpaths.

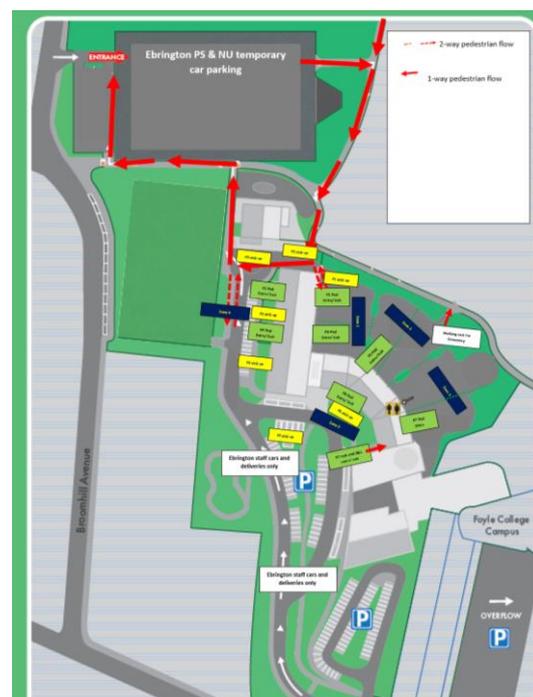
WE ARE NOT OPERATING A GRADUATED DROP OFF/ PICK UP TIME. A one-way pedestrian system is in operation-please refer to the map provided and PLEASE follow these guidelines.

To limit footfall on site, we would request that only one parent/ guardian walk the pupil to the school building, unless as a family, it makes it more convenient for parents to share 'dropping off' at different pod doors.

We request that parents do not enter classroom pods, and observe appropriate social distancing when moving within the site. We would also discourage congregating in small groups for a parental chat in the morning, while on the school site.

Staff will meet pupils at the pod doors and will provide handwashing facilities on entry to each classroom.

Should your child have been unwell within the last 24 hours, it is **IMPERATIVE** that they **DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL** until fully recovered in order to minimise the risk to others.



Class Protective Bubbles

Each class will be known as a 'protective bubble'. Each bubble will be its own separate entity and will not mix with other bubbles. This includes adult support within each bubble, where school is employing temporary additional staff to ensure at least 2 adults with each bubble. This will also include break times and lunch times. The playground has been timetabled and divided for appropriate use and school meals will be delivered to, and eaten in, the classrooms. We are fortunate to have toilet facilities within each 'pod' for our Nursery-P4 pupils. Each bubble will be allocated particular toilets. Our KS2 and S & L toilets will be monitored, timetabled (as much as possible) and cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day.

In-School Hygiene

Pupils will have supervised handwashing built in to the school daily plans. In addition to this, each classroom is being equipped with hand sanitizer and cleaning products which the class teacher and classroom assistant will use on surfaces throughout the day. Furthermore, school is planning to increase cleaning hours within school, to ensure that toilets and regularly touched contact points are cleaned regularly.

Suspected case of Covid-19

Should a pupil present with any of the following 3 symptoms (as identified by the PHA):,

- Elevated temperature
- Continuous cough
- Change in taste/ smell

they will be removed from their 'protective bubble' and taken directly to our designated isolation room, where they will be supervised until an adult comes to collect them.

After each use of this isolation room, a thorough clean will take place.

Home time

Again, no traffic should be coming through the main school gates, rather parking is on the upper shale pitch from Nelson Drive. At home time, pupils will be escorted to certain 'pick up zones' around school (identified on previous map). While waiting, all parents should adhere to the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Upon collection of your child/ children, please leave the school grounds following the one-way system.

Equipment required:

For the first day of return to school, we expect all our pupils from P3-P7 to bring the following in a named pencil case. This pencil case will then remain in school in the child's tray for only their use throughout the school day:

Necessary equipment: 2 HB pencils, rubber & sharpener, colouring pencils, ruler, glue stick.

Other essentials: Water bottle/ morning break, lunch box (if not school meals), coat.

NO SCHOOL BAG SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL EACH DAY, INITIALLY, HOWEVER THIS WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

Learning Platforms

Feedback from our parental survey has give us the chance to review and adapt our practise with regards remote learning. Where Padlet was a useful platform under the initial circumstances, it may not be the best way to move forward in a longer term. Some staff have now been trained in Microsoft Teams and some in SeeSaw. More training is being given during the summer months, so we will update parents on return.

Should a parent wish to speak with a teacher, they should contact the school office to do so. Initially, it may not be possible to hold face to face meetings with parents.

Reducing transfer of paper/ card/ money

We have had continued frustrations of late in setting up our cashless system in school. Necessary IT updates in school have caused delays in the implementation of the system. Initially, it may be necessary to send dinner money in to school. If this is the case, **please ensure the correct amount is given in a money bag/ envelope, with child's name on it. NO CHANGE CAN BE ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL OFFICE.** Any changes to this, we will make you aware as soon as possible.

We are looking at the best way to engage with homework. We understand that transmission via paper is short term (24-48 hours), so school should be able to provide reading books, etc.

Pastoral Support

We fully understand that all families, and especially our pupils, are likely to have had a range of experiences during 'lockdown'. These may have included such things as difficulties in managing home-school/ work, child anxieties over Covid-19, family difficulties/ bereavement. Therefore, as a school, we are carrying out an overview of the school PATHS programme and will be using the relevant areas of this throughout all year groups to pastorally support pupils on their return.

Pupils with SEN/ Medical Needs

Any parents of pupils with SEN/ Medical needs should provide detailed information about each individual circumstance, which will then form part of an individual risk assessment for that child. This will be drawn up in consultation with the parent, school and any external support, if required.

Policy Review

As a result of Covid-19 and DE Guidance, there are a number of policies that school are required to review. These include our Positive Behaviour Policy, Intimate Care Policy and Use of ICT Policy. It also requires the school to update a number of their risk assessments. All of these policies will be updated and shared with parents on the school website prior to school return. Any further policies/ risk assessments that come out of any further guidance from DE will also be provided to parents, where appropriate.

I would like to thank all those parents who engaged with our school RESTART survey, and I trust that the information contained within this document goes some way in addressing the concerns that you, as parents, had identified before feeling confident of your pupils returning to school.

Words that we have heard so many times recently are 'unprecedented times'. This RESTART document has been drawn up due to these unprecedented times. I trust that we can all work together and follow the information within this plan to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all involved in #Team Ebrington.

Obviously, these plans may change, and will be kept under review. I plan to take a few weeks off in July, but will be available again during the week beginning Monday 3 August if any parent needs to make contact with me.

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I hope that in the coming weeks, you and your family continue to stay safe and are able to enjoy a well-earned summer break from all the 'home learning'.

On behalf of all school staff, I would like to say that we truly look forward to seeing you all again when the new academic year begins.

Kind regards

Mr Guthrie