

10/02/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure and relief that we are able to welcome our students back and reopen Scoil Chormaic on the 11th February 2021.

Attached to this letter is the updated School Plan for Reopening February 2021. We ask that you read this document carefully as it outlines our school strategy going forward in our efforts to keep all in our school community safe. Please also pay particular attention to the role of parents/guardians in this strategy. The necessary protocols regarding sickness, contactability and changes to transport which must be strictly adhered to in order for Scoil Chormaic to stay open for all students. The *Scoil Chormaic Covid Response Plan* and the *Covid Risk Assessment* is available on the school website.

At the end of the document there is a copy of the updated Student Declaration Form. If at any time the answer is “yes” to any of these questions your child **must not** attend school. Each teacher has been in contact with you regarding the Declaration Form which must be signed or verbally communicated that the answers are “no” to all of the questions before your child can return to school. The declaration states that you agree to follow the guidelines and protocols that the school has put in place.

In addition to the Covid questions I would ask that in the interest and safety of the whole school community that you do not send your child to school if your child is unwell in any way or presenting with any illness especially if they have to receive Calpol, Nurofen or any other fever or pain relief, have diarrhea, a headache, a cough or runny nose or a tummy bug.

We are so looking forward to getting our wonderful students back to Scoil Chormaic. I understand that you may feel worried or anxious for your child but once again please be assured that the wellbeing, happiness and safety of our students are always at the forefront of all our planning and we will work extremely hard to help our students feel safe and happy in school.

I thank you for your continued support,

Yours in Partnership,

_____ Lorraine Lowry.

School Plan for reopening September 2020

School Response

The Scoil Chormaic updated *Covid Response Plan* and the *Covid Risk Assessment* is available on the school website www.scoilchormaic.ie . Please be aware that this will be a working document and is subject to change in compliance with recommendations from the HSE, Department of Education and in order to adhere to changing government guidelines.

Minimising the risk of introduction of Covid -19 into the school community is a key factor in our control measures. It is critical that people (staff and children) stay at home if unwell. While we cannot eliminate all risk and it is a fact that no interpersonal activity such as school, is without some risk of transmission the measures that we have put in place minimise that risk. In doing so we need the help and full cooperation of ever member of our school community.

With this in mind, you can help keep everyone safe by keeping your child at home under the following circumstances:

✚ If your child, or anyone in your household have any of the symptoms of Covid-19.

These include:

- Fever- A temperature of 37.5 or above.
- A Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Breathing difficulties
- Loss or change to sense of smell or taste.
- Sore throat

If your child is displaying any of these symptoms they should remain off school, seek and follow medical advice and they must not attend school for 14 days and then only if symptom free unless a doctor's note is produced stating the student is safe to return to school.

✚ If your child or any member of your household has been in close contact with a confirmed case of Covid 19, regardless of whether or not they themselves have symptoms, they must not attend school for 14 days and then only if symptom free.

✚ If your child or any member of your household is awaiting a test for Covid 19, or the results of a test. The results of the test will determine the timeframe for return to school (See below)

- ✚ If your child or any family member has undertaken foreign travel to or from a country in the past 14 days and are required to restrict their movements.

Hand Hygiene is one of the important measures in preventing the spread of infection. We will be working with our students to encourage and promote their hand hygiene skill and we ask that you do the same at home. We also ask that your **child washes and sanitises their hands prior to pick up by the school bus and travel to school.**

If your child is unwell/displaying symptoms on the bus, he/she may be brought directly back home, or may need to be collected on arrival to school if closer. Please be aware they will be brought straight to the isolation room if that is the case.

If your child feels unwell in school or develops symptoms during the school day, we will follow a number of steps:

- Your child will be moved to an isolation area.
- The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and the child must be collected from school as soon as possible.

For this reason **you must provide the school with a working mobile number and ensure that while your child is in school that you are always contactable. We ask that you have a procedure in place to have your child collected should the need arise.** This inconvenience is necessary to ensure the safety of our students and staff and to avoid further school closure. Please be aware that the school bus will not collect the student the following day and parents/guardians must contact the school to determine a course of action before the bus will do so.

- We will endeavour to make our students feel safe and comfortable if any of the above arises. The level of care your child receives will not suffer as a result of the new necessary procedures.

As a school are only in a position to ascertain that a child has observable symptoms that may or may not be consistent with Covid19. School will not be communicating with the families of other children in the class grouping of a child who has displayed symptoms.

It remains the responsibility of the G.P. to make the determination if symptoms merit a referral for testing. If a child is referred for testing then they will be required to remain off school until the results of the test are received. If these results are negative the child can return to school once they are well (symptoms are gone). If the result is positive then they will be required to remain off school for a **minimum** of 14 Days and they are symptom free for a period of 5 days.

If a child tests positive then Public Health Representatives will be in contact with the school to establish those who would be considered to be a Close Contact. Any such Close Contacts will be contacted by public health (not the school) and advised as to the course of action.

Student Groupings

As an interim measure Scoil Chormaic will operate at a 50% capacity for students.

Students are divided into Group 1 or Group 2. Teachers have been in contact with you all regarding the new groupings. Please see the below timetable with dates for Group 1 and Group 2 attendance.

February 2021

			Thurs 11th	Fri 12th
			Group 1	Group 2
Mon 15th	Tues 16th	Wed 17th		
Group 1	Group 1	Group 2		
Mon 22nd	Tues 23rd	Wed 24th	Thurs 25th	Fri 26th
Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2

March 2021

Mon 1st	Tues 2nd	Wed 3rd	Thurs 4th	Fri 5th
Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	Group 1
Mon 8th	Tues 9th	Wed 10th	Thurs 11th	Fri 12th
Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2
Mon 15th	Tues 16th		Thurs 18th	Fri 19th
Group 1	Group 1		Group 2	Group 2
Mon 22nd	Tues 23rd	Wed 24th	Thurs 25th	Fri 26th
Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	Group 1

Transport and start/finish time.

In order for the safe entry and exit of our students from the school grounds and due to the large number of buses transporting them, we will be staggering bus times and therefore start times/finish time of school day will differ. This is necessary to avoid gatherings of staff and students on school corridors, to allow for social distancing and as there will continue to be no assembly until further notice, to create a safe calm environment for your child to get to his/her classroom. Please do not contact the school regarding this, *you will be contacted directly by the escorts regarding the new bus times for your child.*

Parents that wish to transport their child to school can do so by making contact and arrangements with their classroom teacher. I will make information regarding the transport grant available to parents once I get that information.

Pods, social distancing and face masks

The use of Pods will be implemented in our school. Your child will mostly be unaware of this as the groupings will likely feel very natural. The use of Pods will limit the interactions of your child to the wider school community therefore limiting the risk of transmission to students and staff. It will also allow for easier contact tracing if needed.

Social distancing will be implemented through classroom layout and structured areas for activities, timetabling breaks and staggered arrival and departure from school. Social distancing will be adhered to where possible. We do ask that your child refrain from handshaking high fives etc if possible and to use the elbow greet instead but again this will be reinforced and taught in the classroom. While structural social distancing measures have been implemented in all areas of the school and social distancing will be encouraged and promoted at all times, staff will not be in a position to enforce this nor is it practical or reasonable to do so especially in younger classes.

Face coverings are required for students over 13 years of age. It is most important that all students that can, will wear face coverings and will be strongly encouraged to do so. Students will be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings on transport and in school where 2 metre social distancing cannot be maintained (be aware staff/teachers cannot take requests from parents to enforce face coverings).

Hand washing and respiratory etiquette will continue in school please encourage this at home.

Continuity of Learning

We will endeavour where possible to continue to provide remote teaching to those students that are not returning to school.

School Materials and Lunches

Please limit the number of items in your child's school bag as it will be needed to store their coat and lunch etc. Bags will be hung on the back of the child's individual chair and items stored in their bag throughout the day.

Please make sure your child has the following items on their return to school:

A pencil case with pencils (pens if senior students), rubber, topper, ruler, pritt stick, colouring pencils/crayons/twistables. **This Pencil case and items will remain in school.**

The kitchen will be closed for the moment (we will review this in October).

All children will need to bring their lunch to school with them, please ensure that any fruit/food is cut up to minimise staff having to handle food items.

We also ask that any additional cutlery that may required, be sent in with your child.

I Scoil Chormaic Student Declaration Form

This form must be completed by every student’s Parent/Guardian in advance of returning to school. These can be handed to the child’s bus escort on the day of return

If the answer is Yes to any of the below questions, you are advised to seek medical advice and NOT to return to school. We ask that you please do not send your child to school if they are sick.

Name of student: _____ Class _____

Name of School: Scoil Chormaic, Golden Road, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

Name of Principal: Ms Lorraine Lowry Date: _____

	Questions	YES	NO
1.	Does your child have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss or change in your sense of smell or taste now or in the past 14 days?		
2.	Has your child or a member of your household been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?		
3	Is your child or any member of your household awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?		
4	In the past 14 days, has your child or any member of your household been in contact with a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?		
5	Has your child or any member of your household been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time?		
6	Has your child or any member of your household been advised to restrict your movements at this time?		
7	Has your child or any member of the household undertaken foreign travel in the past 14 days?		

I confirm, to the best of my knowledge that my child has no symptoms of COVID-19, is not self-isolating or awaiting results of a COVID-19 test and has not been advised to restrict my movements nor anyone in the household.

Please note: The school is collecting this sensitive personal data for the purposes of maintaining safety within the school in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legal basis for collecting this data is based on vital public health interests and maintaining occupational health and this data will be held securely in line with our retention policy.

Parent/Guardian Signed: _____