



Redeemer Boys' National School  
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## **A Summary of our Plan for the Safe Reopening of Orchard Class 1 and 2 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

You will be aware that we plan to reopen our Special Classes on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

For this reopening to be successful we must work together to decrease the chance of Covid-19 coming into the school. Unfortunately, if we have a confirmed positive case, classes may have to close for 14 days.

Please see below for an outline of the reopening of the classes and a description of the school day.

### **Return to Work/ Return to School Form**

Before returning to school, staff members will be asked to fill in the Return to Work form. The form has been emailed to all staff members and should be completed and forwarded to the principal before Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February or handed in to the school office upon their return to work.

Parents are asked to fill in a return to school form for their son/s. The form has been posted to parents along with this summary and should be returned to the school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

- We ask that parents check their son's temperature before he leaves to go to school each morning.
- If possible, each child should have two sets of school clothes that can be worn on alternate days. Similarly, staff should have specific work clothes that can be washed immediately after going home from school.

### **Classes/Pods**

In Redeemer Boys' N.S. we have 2 ASD Classes that has 6 pupils in each. Class 1 has 4 members of staff and Class 2 has 3 members of staff. **Each class will operate as a distinct pod.** We aim to have no crossover of staff or pupils from one pod to another.

Staff in each pod will be separated at breaktimes and have an individual seat assigned to them for daily use. Class 1 will use the existing Sensory Room and the hall area for OT sessions. Class 2 will use the existing OT room and utilise an area of this large room that has been sectioned off and re-purposed as a sensory space. There will be no mixing of children or staff at the gates or in the hall when children arrive at school in the morning or leave school in the afternoon.

## **School Transport**

**School transport will be running.** On the buses, however, pods/classes are mixed and there are 2 further adults added to the list of close contacts, the driver and the bus escort. To help eliminate crossover between classes, Class 1 pupils will sit in the front section of the bus and Class 2 will sit in the back section. Please follow your bus escorts direction on this. When the buses reach the school gates, Class 1 staff will come out to receive pupils first. Class 2 pupils should remain seated until Class 2 staff exit the building to escort them inside.

**Any child attending school on a bus should expect to be collected from home slightly later than usual each morning as there is less traffic on the roads at present.** Bus escorts will continue to check each child's temperature as they board the bus. Any child with a temperature of 37.7 degrees Celsius will not be able to travel on the bus.

## **Pupils Feeling (or presenting as) Unwell**

It is extremely important that children should not be sent to school if they are in any way unwell. It is also important to note that if others in your household are unwell it would be best to keep your child at home until you are sure Covid-19 is not the cause of illness in your home. Dr Tony Holohan has stated that any flu-like symptoms are more likely than not to be Covid-19 at this time.

**Live by the mantra: 'If in doubt, keep them out!'** This is to keep the rest of the school safe and to avoid the need to close one, or both, of our ASD Classes if there is an outbreak.

During the school day, any child with a temperature of 37.7 degrees or above will be brought to the Isolation Room. After a period of 10 minutes his temperature will be taken again and if it is still high parents will be called to collect their child.

## **Absences and Protocol before Returning to School**

If your child is absent due to illness please inform school and fill in a Return to School Form prior to your child returning to school.

## **Outer Wear and Extra Layers of Clothing**

All boys should have a heavy, warm coat, along with a hat, scarf and gloves to wear outside each day. Weather permitting, it is our intention to have the boys going out as often as possible for regular fresh air and social/movement breaks as they will be more confined in their pods and seats than they have been used to. Teachers will make use of our nature-abundant grounds/environs to teach lessons from other areas of the curriculum.

Playing and learning outside in the fresh air is very beneficial to children's mental health, something which we are all very conscious of after the turbulent year the boys have had. We are also safer outside and it affords us a chance to properly ventilate the room throughout the day.

**On ventilation, windows are to be partially opened during the day according to public health guidelines so it would be a good idea to send a fleece in with your child that he could wear indoors, if need be.** An alternative could be a thermal top underneath the school uniform.

### **Breaks/Lunchtimes**

The two classes/pods will have separate break times during the day to avoid mixing between pods. The playground equipment will be cleaned down after each class. Please find break times listed below:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Break time (outside)</b>
<b>Mrs Rooney</b> (Class 1)	<b>10:00 – 10:15am</b>
<b>Miss Reel</b> (Class 2)	<b>10:25 – 10:40am</b>
<b>Lunch time (outside)</b>	
<b>Mrs Rooney</b> (Class 1)	<b>11:30 – 11:55am</b>
<b>Miss Reel</b> (Class 2)	<b>12:00 – 12:25pm</b>

These breaktimes will be in operation for the first 2 weeks of our return to school and will be reviewed thereafter. It may not be possible to continue with these breaks when there is a phased/full return to school for mainstream classes.

**We ask that all parents send in a snack for small break and a lunch for big break (to include a drink).** Most of the boys in Class 1 and 2 normally do not eat the school lunches anyway for a variety of reasons. For those pupils that do ordinarily avail of the school lunches, they will receive them again when school reopens for our mainstream classes. Up until that point, please send break and lunch in for your son daily.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Staff will be wearing medical grade disposable face masks, and these will be changed regularly throughout the day.

For intimate care needs staff will also wear disposable plastic aprons, visors over masks and disposable gloves.

Staff may wear a visor over their mask, but the visor cannot be substituted for a mask.

Disposable gloves may be worn when children are being brought for a walk, but hands must be sanitised before using gloves and washed immediately after gloves have been safely disposed of.

## **Hand Washing and Sanitising**

Since September hand washing and sanitising have become a normal part of the school day. This will continue for children and staff throughout the day: on entering the classroom; before eating; after using toilet; and coming in from outside.

## **End of the School Day**

Buses will collect our Infant Day pupils at 1.30pm and Senior Day pupils at approximately 2.15pm.

## **Suspected Case in School**

If possible, a child displaying symptoms will be brought to the isolation room and our isolation room procedures will be followed. If the child cannot be moved safely to the Isolation Room, the child will be brought to an isolation area in the classroom that is set at least 2 metres from all other children. Isolation Procedures will be followed as per the school's Covid-19 Response Plan (an updated version of this will be uploaded to the school website shortly).

## **Suspected Case at Home**

If a pupil, a parent or any family member in your household is deemed as a close contact, especially over a weekend period, please contact the principal immediately at [redeemerboysschool@yahoo.com](mailto:redemerboysschool@yahoo.com) and self- isolate. Do not send your child to school on the days following on from this development. Sometimes the tracking of close contacts is a little delayed and the Board of Management want everyone to err on the side of caution.

## **Other Information**

If a teacher or SNA is unable to attend work for any reason, we will try to get substitute cover for that person/those persons. We may, however, have to close a class if it cannot be staffed appropriately and we would return to remote learning in this instance. Every effort will be made to avoid this eventuality, but it is important that you are all aware that this is a possibility.

This summary of our plan is a working document that may be amended.

Our Covid-19 Policy Statement and Response Plan is still in place and details the practices necessary for our school to meet the Government's 'Return to Work Safely Protocol' and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the school environment.

We look forward to welcoming the boys back next week and bringing the school building back to life again!

Thank you for your continued support,

Michelle Murray