Liosmor Mochuda NS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In response to this time of uncertainty regarding school closures, we have formulated this

policy to outline how the school will maintain the link between school and home. In the

event of another whole or partial school closure, we aim to continue to communicate with

our pupils through various means.

We recognise that online safety is of huge importance and the aim of this document is to

help to protect both school staff and pupils, while teaching and learning online.

This policy does not set out to replace our Mobile Phone or Acceptable Usage Policy.

Rather, it is proposed as an important addition to the area of learning from a digital

platform. The policy presented here should be read also in tandem with our school’s Code

of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying (including Cyber Bullying) Policy.

The primary obligation of all schools is to the welfare of the learners in their school. This

policy, therefore, seeks to ensure that remote learning is safe for all student learners and

that personal and sensitive data is also protected under GDPR legislation. Schools must

ensure that learning takes place in an environment that is respectful and fair and meets

its statutory duties.

This Policy has been formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Department of

Education and relevant sections of:

(a) The Education Act (1998)

(b) Education (Welfare) Act (2000)

(c) Equal Status Act (2000)

(d) Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)

(e) Disability Act (2005)

(f) Children First Act (2017)

(g) GDPR

(h) Data Protection Act (2018)

(i) Department of Education: Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools

(j) NEWB Guidelines for Developing a Code of Behaviour (2008).

(k) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary Schools (May 2020)

(l) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling: ​*Supporting Primary Pupils at very High Risk*

*to Covid 19 ​*(August 2020)​*.*

This is a working document. As we continue to explore options available to support

distance learning, the document will be updated accordingly.

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**Context**

Teaching and Learning is always evolving, especially, as we move deeper into the 21st

century. Developments in IT provide us all with great opportunities as learners and

teachers. Never before has there been greater scope to learn using technology and it

continues to change the learning relationship between teachers and students. Advances

in technology mean that assignments can be delivered remotely and that greater access

to information on the internet affords the opportunities for real learning to take place

under the watchful and professional guidance of the teacher. However, whether a child is

being directed remotely or via a traditional classroom environment, it is very important

that all partners are aware that once a learning exchange takes place between a student

and teacher, whether at home or school, the same statutory rules apply i.e. the school’s

Code of Positive Behaviour and all of the school’s policies apply.

We recognise that online collaboration is essential for distance learning and that families

are in favour of increased opportunities to maintain the connection between school and

home. NS uses a variety of child friendly, online tools, which assist in providing more

effective teaching and learning, while also enabling greater communication between staff,

families and students.

​**Guidelines for good online communication in National School:**

1.Under no circumstances should​ ​pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.

2.Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe,

respectful and kind manner online.

3.It is the duty of parents/guardians to supervise children while they are working

online and to ensure that any content submitted to their teacher is appropriate.

4.Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Google Classroom

or through an established app (e.g. Seesaw).

5.Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to

allow for communication with families.

6.Students and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the

school and of which parents have been notified (Seesaw, Zoom)

7.Parental permission will be acquired before setting up a profile for a pupil on a

communication forum.

8.For video/Zoom calls, parental permission is implied, as the link to a video call will

be communicated via the parent/guardian’s email address. Essentially, by virtue of

the pupil logging on to the call, permission is assumed.

9.For security reasons, passwords will be provided to families, where applicable.

10.NS cannot accept responsibility for the security of online platforms, in the event

that they are compromised.

National School will use four online platforms for communicating and connecting with

families/pupils. Our ‘Remote Teaching and Learning Plan’ will include a combination of

assigned work, pre-recorded lessons (Seesaw & Google Classroom) and live sessions

(Zoom).

1: ​**School App​**:

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Staff will communicate regularly with parents and pupils via the school App. All families

are asked to download the school and to check it daily for updates and important

information. Teachers will post work for pupils each week (Sunday) on the app.

Each teacher will be assigned a class e-mail address through which he/she will

communicate with parents/guardians and vice-versa. Parental queries will be addressed

during school hours only (9:05-2:45) and should relate strictly to your child's teaching

and learning.

2: ​**Seesaw:**

*Seesaw Class App* is for our pupils to connect to their folder and they then have the

option of uploading items to their folder for their teacher to see. This app is used from

Junior Infants – Fifth Class and requires a QR which can be accessed through the school

email. Parental consent is required prior to using this app. Each child will be assigned an

individual access code. Unfortunately, single family log in is not facilitated on Seesaw​.

Some lessons will be pre -recorded and uploaded via Seesaw.

3. ​**Google Classroom:​** (also includes Google Meet where appropriate)

Google Classroom is an online platform used with Sixth Class pupils and again it enables

our pupils to connect to their folder of work and it also allows access to their teacher

when required. Our Sixth- Class teacher may also provide feedback and communicate with

pupils via Google Classroom. Some lessons will be pre -recorded and uploaded on Google

Classroom. Parental consent is required prior to using this app.

**4. Zoom**

Zoom is a video-conferencing platform which will enable teachers, staff and pupils to

connect via a live link. Teachers will connect with pupils regularly using pre-arranged

Zoom Meetings.

**Rules for pupils using online communication methods:**

For submitting learning:

1.Submit work and pictures that are appropriate - have an adult take a look at your

work before you send it.

2.Use kind and friendly words.

For video calls/Zoom:

1.Remember to ensure you join each Zoom meeting using your family name.

2.Pictures or recordings of the video call are not allowed.

3.Remember our school rules - they are still in place, even online.

4.Set up your device in a quiet space, with no distractions in the background.

5.Join the video with your microphone muted.

6.Raise your hand before speaking, just like you would do in class.

7.If you have the chance to talk, speak in your normal voice, using kind and friendly

words.

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8.Show respect by listening to others while they are speaking.

9.Ensure that you are dressed appropriately for the video call.

10.Be on time - set a reminder if it helps.

11.Enjoy! Don’t forget to wave hello to everyone when you join!

**Guidelines for parents and guardians:**

For learning

1.It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that pupils are

supervised while they work online.

2.Check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate.

3.Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.

For video calls/Zoom

1.Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.

2.Ensure that the school has the correct email address for inviting you to join apps

and meetings.

3.The main purpose of a video call is to engage in online learning activities while

maintaining a social connection between the school staff and pupils. Encourage

pupils to listen and enjoy the experience.

4.Be aware that when participating in group video calls, you can be seen and heard

unless you are muted or have disabled your camera.

5.You will automatically enter a waiting room when the code for a Zoom call has

been entered. Please note that school staff will only accept users into video call if

you can be identified by the display name on your zoom account. (i.e. Family

Name)

6.Please ensure that your child is on time for a scheduled video, or they may be

locked out. Please request to join the Zoom call approximately five minutes before

the scheduled start time. This will give school staff time to verify your email

address.

7.Make sure to familiarise your child with the software in advance. For video in

particular, show them how to mute/unmute and turn the camera on/off.

8.Participants in the call should be dressed appropriately.

9.An appropriate background/room should be chosen for the video call.

10.For detailed information on GDPR and Zoom, please visit ​<https://zoom.us/privacy>

It is important to note that any breach of the above guidelines will result in a

discontinuation of this method of communication. A breach may also result in a person

being immediately removed from a meeting or a meeting being immediately terminated.

**Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Students:**

●Check assigned work each week

●Communication may only take place during normal school hours

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●The normal school calendar will apply

●The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:

- Code of Behaviour

- Anti- Bullying Policy

- Acceptable Use Policy

●Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with students

expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where

possible in this evolving and unprecedented situation

o ​In so far as possible, provision for SEN students will be made when using

Remote Learning methodologies

oIn so far as possible, provision for student at very high-risk to Covid 19 will

be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

**Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Parents**

**●**We ask parents/guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to

**●**Check-in on their child’s school work on a daily basis and talk to their child about

the work being assigned

**●**The health and wellbeing of all is paramount. Circumstances may change for any of

us unexpectedly, teachers or parents, so please keep schooling in perspective and

do not allow anything school related to impinge on your child negatively. You are

the primary educator of your child and you make those calls. We encourage a little

work every week day for routine. We provide work and guidance and ask parents

and pupils to do their best and that is all. 

**Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Teachers/SNA’s**

●Check uploaded work each week

●Communication may only take place during normal school hours

●The normal school calendar will apply

●The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:

oChild Protection Policy

oData Protection Policy

●Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply with students expected

to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible.

**Remote Teaching and Learning Provision specifically for the following Covid 19**

**related scenarios**

**A.Provision for children who are at very high risk to Covid 19:**

The school will engage directly with relevant parents, regarding remote educational

provision for children who are deemed to be at ​**very high risk** to Covid-19 (see HSE

Guidelines) where medical certification has been provided to the school. 

**B. In the case of all other children who are instructed to self-isolate by their GP or**

**HSE Public Health, educational provision will be provided as follows:**

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1.Children who are awaiting Covid 19 test results for themselves or a family member

and have been instructed by their GP to isolate at home for a few days. These

pupils will be supported to catch up on their learning on their return to school

2.Children isolating at home on instruction from their GP due to a confirmed case

within their own family/close contact outside of school (14-day isolation period).

Teacher will link in with the pupil via See-Saw/ Google-Classroom (not video

conferencing)

3.School POD (group of six) instructed by HSE Pubic Health to self-isolate. Teacher

will link in with the pupils via See-Saw/ Google-Classroom (not video conferencing)

4.School bubble (whole class) instructed by HSE Public Health to self-isolate (14day

isolation period). Teacher will engage with the bubble daily on Seesaw/Google

Classroom and regularly on Zoom

5.Whole school closure as instructed by HSE Public Health (duration of closure will

be advised by Public Health)Teachers will engage with pupils, using a blended

approach of pre-recorded lessons, Seesaw/Google Classroom and regular contact

on Zoom.

**Please note that the current situation is quite fluid and these circumstances may**

**vary throughout the year.**

**Summary:**

→​Do what you can, within your circumstances. Forget about following books and

workbooks outside of the work set by teachers for the moment.

→​There will be no school work set for planned school closures/holidays. There will be no

interaction on Zoom, Seesaw or Google Classroom during these times

→ Please keep abreast of postings on the school app– it is our main mode of

communication going forward.

→​We ask parents/guardians, students and teachers to ensure protocols are adhered to at

all times.

→​If you have yet to connect to any of the on-line platforms/school App, please do so. If

you are experiencing difficulties please email the school and we will assist you in any way

that we can and please contact the school with any further queries you may have.

We thank the school community for adhering to the above guidelines for everyone’s

safety and welfare.

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This plan was ratified by the BOM NS at its meeting on:

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is subject to change, in light of

any guidance or instruction received from Department of Education and Skills/HSE Public

Health.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson BOM NS)

**\*Recommended Apps**

In addition to a pared back plan of work for your child/children, we suggest the following

Apps for your child’s use too, if you can access them. If not, do not worry, they are

helpful but not essential.

●**Cúla 4:** Excellent for younger pupils for Irish vocab – very child friendly. There are

also videos of your children’s favourite cartoons here as Gaeilge which would be

useful to watch occasionally to keep up with Irish

●**Doulingo:** most suitable from 2nd class upwards. Excellent app. Tests your child

Irish ability level at the start and they work away at their own level for 10mins

daily

●**Mathduel:​** For tables. Fun and interactive

●**Starfall:** For spellings. Again, very child friendly and useful to keep spellings

progressing without feeling like schoolwork

●**Jolly Phonics App:​** to keep up phonics learning for infant classes

●**Dolch words Apps:** (there is a wide range available): for the development of sight

words

●**Nessy Apps:​** for reading for pupils with dyslexia or difficulties

●**PinkFong:​** Digital stories for infant classes. Excellent and engaging

●**Khan Academy:​** Useful for maths for older pupils especially

●**Kahoot:​** for general knowledge and quizzes

●**Toontastic:** probably the best app ever for digital storytelling – pupils can devise

their own digital story, picking a range of characters, settings, even musical

background. They plan a beginning, middle and end to their story and can record

their own voices to tell the story

●**Puppetpals:** similar to toontastic – useful for younger pupils. They can record

themselves telling the story also

●**Lightbot ​**– Coding app – super for all ages.