

Update 3 – 18/8/20

Health and Hygiene

Peter Weir, the Minister for Education recently wrote to parents explaining the decision to allow all children to return to school. He writes, “*The scientific evidence is consistent that with proper risk mitigations, schools are safe to open. However, this does not mean a return to business as usual. We are still operating in a pandemic and **everyone** will have a role to play in ensuring that hygiene and public health measures are followed to allow a safe return to school.*”

	Notes
Personal health/ hygiene	<p>Whilst children in West Winds are always well turned out, parents are requested to make an extra effort to ensure children are sent to school with clean uniform each day.</p> <p>We will be reinforcing good hand hygiene with children, which remains extremely important in keeping our community safe. Children will be washing their hands at multiple points in the day. We would encourage children to wash their hands as they leave and return to their homes.</p> <p>We will be encouraging children to adopt the ‘Catch It, Bin it, Kill it’ approach to coughs and sneezes. Separate bins will be provided in the classroom for tissues. <i>If possible, please send in one box of tissues/ small bottle of hand gel per family into school.</i> These will be distributed around classes as needed to complement the supplies purchased by school.</p> <p>Please strictly follow existing PHA guidance on isolating children after non Covid -19 related sickness and ill health. It is important we keep our school community as generally well as possible. Guidance is here: https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/guidance-infection-control-schools-and-other-childcare-settings-0</p> <p>Pupils must not attend school if they display any symptoms of the virus. See below.</p>
C19 related health - children	<p>Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature); OR • a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR • a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. <p>Please inform school of their absence and contact the NI Test and Trace and Protect System, who will issue further guidance. https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-information-public</p> <p>If anyone else in your household is displaying symptoms as above, please follow the guidance from the NI Test and Trace and Protect system. Please inform school if your child is absent due to a household self-isolating.</p>

<p><i>If C19 symptoms should arise in school with a child:</i></p>	<p>DE/ PHA guidance states that if a child becomes unwell with C19 symptoms in an educational setting, they and any members of their household within that school setting must be sent home and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.</p> <p>In this instance, the child (and any other members of their household) will wait in a designated room in school. They will stay here, supervised, until an adult comes to collect them.</p> <p>As such, it is extremely important the parental contact records are up to date and that parents (or another appropriate adult) are able to collect the children as soon as possible. Parents should then contact the NI Test and Trace and Protect System, who will issue further guidance as regards accessing testing etc.</p> <p>Schools are required to keep a full record of these actions and request a parent / carer / guardian record their acknowledgement of this action.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>The Department for Education have stated that, just as prior to the pandemic, they now consider school attendance mandatory. We also understand, however, that some children live with medical conditions that may make them more vulnerable to Covid-19 and whose parents are worried about them returning to school at all. Please get in contact with school if this is the case, so that we can discuss this with you.</p>
<p>Sanitation around school</p>	<p>Having experienced a ‘deep clean’ over the summer holidays, school will be operating with an additional cleaning schedule, with further enhanced cleaning protocols in place if required.</p> <p>Separate toilets will be allocated to each class (which is operating as a protective bubble) with signage reminding children of this. Additional cleaning schedules will take place with toilet areas.</p> <p>In addition to increased hand washing that will become part of the ‘normal’ school day, sanitation stations have been installed around the school. Children, staff and visitors will have access to these, in order to complement the hand washing practices in place.</p>
<p>PPE/ Face coverings</p>	<p>PPE refers to specialist, medical grade equipment such as face masks/ aprons/ gloves. Face coverings are different; they are simply coverings designed to cover the mouth and nose and prevent aerosol transmission.</p> <p><i>PPE</i> Current guidance states the PPE is not required for children under the age of 11.</p> <p>Current guidance states that there is no requirement for adults to use PPE whilst in school, except in particular cases</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administering medication/ First Aid to children • Providing intimate care to children • Supervising children presenting with C19 symptoms, where social distancing is not possible. <p>Staff will be provided with PPE to use in these situations.</p> <p><i>Face coverings</i> Staff within West Winds have been provided with a clear visor to act as a face covering. At times, the staff member may use this covering, or another covering of their choosing, particularly when they are working in closer proximity to children.</p> <p>We would encourage parents to have a conversation with children at home about why people are wearing face coverings so as to reduce children's levels of anxiety. Staff in school will also be having these conversations with children.</p> <p>Public Health Guidance does not require children under the age of 13 to wear a face covering.</p>
Behaviour Management	<p>West Winds has high expectations for pupil's behaviour. This will remain the case during this time. Our behaviour management policy has been updated in order to be specific about our expectations of children's behaviour, particularly around issues to do with hygiene and social distancing. We look forward to continued parental cooperation with this.</p>
Supporting children	<p>We will be providing activities for children in order to help them understand what is happening during this Coronavirus pandemic. We would encourage parents to talk to their children about what is happening and to continue to provide comfort and reassurance.</p> <p>The Public Health Agency has produced this guidance to help parents talk to their children. https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/node/5273</p> <p>As we discover more useful resources for parents, we will share these through our website and FaceBook page.</p>

If you wish to discuss anything further in this update, please contact:

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Many thanks

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Principal