

St. Joseph's N.S. Rathdonnell,
Trentagh, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

074 91 37315

Safety Statement: Return to Work Safety Protocols

St. Joseph's NS, Rathdonnell will continue to facilitate remote working. However, for those staff members/contractors who require access to school premises/facilities, they are owed a duty of care. During the COVID-19 shutdown of schools, any access to a school must comply with best practice from the HSE and the Department of Education. In cases where teachers or staff in general are unsure of their situation they will be required to contact our designated Covid 19 representative, Gráinne Duggan (Principal).

In this interim period there is a provision for staff to access school buildings in limited circumstances from the 18th May 2020 until 1st September 2020. In this context schools should observe all public health guidance and in addition adhere to the guidelines listed below. Travel to schools from 18th May for work that cannot be done remotely is considered a necessary journey. Social distancing and compliance with public health guidance is the key requirement, access should be minimised and only in circumstances where the work cannot be done remotely

In order to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all staff the following protocols have been drawn up to facilitate the presence of staff in the school building. These protocols are based on the document "Return to Work Protocol" prepared by the Department of Health.

They are informed by the Government's Return to Work Safely Protocol, COVID-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers. These documents are underpinned by the government's key recommendations to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus: good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, social distancing and regular cleaning. It should be noted that the attached details are not exhaustive and are also subject to change

From a risk management perspective:

To ensure safe access and egress, staff should benefit from the same point of entry/exit to the school during this time. Where this is not practical (ie exiting

by the back door at the Junior Classroom and which is actually a Fire Exit) staff should adhere to the protocols as outlined below.

Minimise common touch areas e.g. handles etc., and ensure that these are cleaned regularly.

Hand sanitizers are made available at the point of entry/exit or staff should wash their hands after entering the building. There are also gloves, alcohol wipes and multipurpose sanitising spray in every classroom.

Gráinne Duggan is appointed as contact person should staff have any queries or additional requests.

Caretakers/ general operative workers/ painters or cleaners must undertake approved/risk-assessed activities and keep the designated contact informed of their location and tasks.

Any contractors engaged at this time must be done so in accordance with the Guidelines on Managing Safety, Health and Welfare in schools.

Any persons who are in the higher risk demographic should not be entering the premises.

All staff etc. should practise appropriate social distancing and keep a distance of 2 metres from each other.

All staff etc. should perform regular and thorough hand hygiene practices, as well as good respiratory hygiene.

Any staff member etc. who feels unwell or develops symptoms should not enter the school, the staff member should self-isolate and phone their GP and follow HSE guidelines.

Children will be discouraged from entering the school during this time unless deemed necessary and facilitated by Gráinne Duggan (designated Covid19 person)

In all circumstances St. Joseph's NS Rathdonnell shall be mindful of and adhere to public health advice regarding social distancing and other public health guidance at all times and attendance in the school building should continue to be minimised.

Dated : 18th May 2020

Signed : Gráinne Duggan