



Dear Parents, Guardians,

Below are answers to some frequently asked questions which you may find useful for your son/daughter's return to school. We will continually monitor and update as new guidance is issued by the Department of Education and Skills.

**Q: Does my child have to wear a face covering?**

A: Yes, all students and staff are required to wear face coverings. The advice from the HSE is

["It is therefore a requirement that teachers, staff and students attending post primary schools wear a face covering when a physical distance of 2m from other staff or students cannot be maintained."](#)

**Q: Is a visor acceptable?**

A: The advice is that a plastic face visor is not as effective as a face covering. Click on link for HSE advice below:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html>

**Q: How does my child know where to go and how will the school operate on their first day?**

A: Year Groups will return to school as per the schedule posted on our school website. On the morning of their return, First Year students will enter by the First Year door (to the left of the Main door) and be guided to the courtyard. From here they will be guided to their base class.

All remaining students on the day of their return will meet their Year Head on the Hockey pitch. They will line up in their class lines at social distance and will then be guided to their base rooms in the school. On their first day, students will be given an induction on the day to day running of the school given Covid-19 regulations.

**Q: How can I contact the school if I have a concern?**

A: Contact with the school;

**Phone call** to the main office number: 01 8436726

**School email:** [info@donabatecc.ie](mailto:info@donabatecc.ie) Please mark FAO and name the name of the senior manager you wish to make contact with.

Unfortunately, meetings with parents/guardians can now only be by appointment. When arranging and appointment with a Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal, you will be directed to the electronic Visitor/Contractor Form. The purpose of this arrangement and the form is to aid contact tracing.



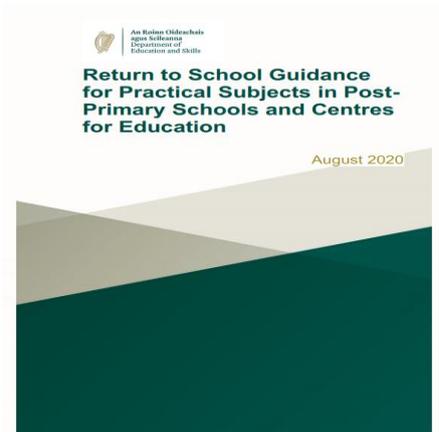
**Q: Is Covid-19 signage visible in the school?**

A: Yes.

- Floor signage for a one way walking system
- Door signage to highlight washing of hands and the location of the Isolation Room

**Q: Can students engage with practical subjects?**

A: Please click on the attached document for the latest DES advice, practical classes will take place in line with the guidance detailed in this document. Students will have responsibility for sanitising equipment as per the guidance of their teacher.



**Q: At what time will the school be open?**

A: Entry doors will open at 8.15am and close promptly at 8.30am. There will be no student access to the building before 8.15am. At their induction, students will be told the entry/exit point designated for their Year Group.

**Q: Are there designated areas for lunchbreak?**

A: Yes. All students will eat their lunch in their base class. Then under supervision students will move to the following areas;

Year Group	Location
First Year	Courtyard
Second Year	Hockey Pitch
Third Year	Hockey Pitch
Fourth Year	Assembly Area with access to outside space beside Principal's Office
Fifth Year	Basketball Courts
Sixth Year	PE Hall



**Q: Do uniforms have to be washed on a daily basis?**

A: The Answer from the Department of Education and Skills to this question;

*“There is no evidence to suggest that asking children to wear freshly laundered uniforms or clothes every day is an effective measure to limit the spread of COVID-19. School uniforms or clothes should be laundered regularly in line with usual good hygiene. If uniforms or clothes are visibly dirty or soiled, they should be laundered.”*

**Q: As students will not have lockers, will my child’s bag be too heavy?**

A: Staff are very cognisant of this and are exploring ways to limit the amount students will have to carry in their school bags.

**Q: Can my child bring water to school?**

A: Yes, we recommend that students bring their water bottles with them to school as the water fountains are no longer available and students need to keep hydrated.

**Q: Can students share pens, books?**

A: No. Sharing of personal items is not allowed. All students must ensure that they have their own pens, maths sets, class materials etc

The Department of Education and Skills advice in relation to lunch boxes and water bottles:

*“Your child can bring a lunchbox/water bottle to school, but they should be the only person to handle these items during the school day and should not share or swap their lunch with other children. This aligns with regular good practice to protect children with allergies from accidental exposure to allergens such as nuts.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 survives for longer on hard surfaces like lunchboxes and water bottles, compared to soft fabrics like clothing, so these items should only be used by one child and should be cleaned daily with regular household cleaning products.”*

**Q: What does my child need on their first day back in school?**

A: On their first day returning to school, students should bring, a pen, copy, snack, water, and their device.



**Q: What should I do if my child develops symptoms of Covid-19?**

*“Students who have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), including fever, new cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, should not attend school.*

*Please phone your doctor and follow [guidance on self-isolation](#). Your doctor will advise whether COVID-19 testing is required and will arrange testing if necessary.”*

**Q: What happens if my child displays symptoms of Covid-19 in school?**

A: If a student displays symptoms of Covid-19 in school, the subject teacher will discreetly call for a member of the senior management team to accompany your child to the isolation room. Parents/Guardians will be contact to bring your son/daughter home, advising to contact your GP. The subject teacher will discreetly move their class to an alternative room to allow for sanitising of the classroom. This practise is in line with HSE guidelines and will be carried out sympathetically and discreetly.

**Q: Will students’ temperatures be taken before they enter the school?**

*“The public health advice is that temperature checking is not recommended because fever is not a consistent symptom of COVID-19 in children. Parents and/or schools do not need to take children’s temperatures every morning.*

*Parents and pupils/students are reminded that, if they feel unwell or have ANY COVID-19 symptoms, they should not attend school. More information is available on the [symptoms of COVID-19](#).”*

**Q: What is the position if we have returned from abroad?**

A: *“Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.*

*It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’ (“green”), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.*

*The school has a duty of care to all of its pupils and staff members. If a school has reasonable grounds for believing that its duty of care toward its staff and pupils is being undermined in circumstances where a person – staff member or pupil - has not observed the mandatory requirement to restrict movements for 14 days following return from a non-green list country, it is reasonable for the school to refuse access to the pupil or staff member during this period.*

*Pupils who live with someone who travels abroad for work*



*The general public health advice outlined above for people returning to Ireland having worked abroad should be followed by the person who has worked abroad (for example: a parent or guardian).*

*Living with a parent or guardian who travels abroad for work does not prevent children from attending school. The parent or guardian should follow all of the HSE guidelines when they return home.”*