



Return to School 2020/2021

Update 1

Below is a list of some of the measures that PSS, Wexford has currently in place or is working on in preparation for our return to school at the end of the month.

- Our Board of Management has a COVID 19 response plan in place.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been installed outside every classroom and areas of entrance & egress.
- Signage is being installed which will highlight the measures that help to prevent the spread of the virus
- A new timetable and grid will be in place for 2020/2021, 1-hour classes will replace 40-minute classes. This will minimise the amount of times students will be on the corridors and break of classes.
- School will also finish at different times than the current end of school times. More information to follow.
- Planning is currently in progress to stagger small break and lunch time. Meaning there will be separate break & lunch times for Junior students (1st, 2nd & 3rd Years) and for Senior students (4th, 5th & 6th Years)
- Classrooms are currently being cleared of any excess furniture to facilitate maximum space for social distancing.
- Classrooms are also being arranged seating wise to facilitate the maximum space for social distancing.
- We ask that Parents/Guardians make payments by phone to the school secretary or through Vsware where possible.
- It is important to note that all Parents/Guardians & students be advised that government advice now insists that all students and staff wear face coverings in school where 2 metre or 1 metre social distancing cannot be achieved. In a school like ours that was built for 600 students, but, with a projected enrolment of 850 for September 2020, and with a staff of 70, 2 metre socially distancing can be very difficult to facilitate.
- It is important that all students supply their own masks, we recommend cloth face masks.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.
- Additional disposable face coverings will be available for students, teachers, and staff in case a back-up face covering is needed during the day.
- Please note, that wearing a face covering or mask does not negate the need to stay at home if symptomatic.
- All students on the post primary transport scheme should be asked to wear face coverings unless there is a good reason not to do so.
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn by any of the following groups:
 - Any person with difficulty breathing
 - Any person who is unconscious or incapacitated
 - Any person who is unable to remove the face-covering without assistance
 - Any person who has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the face covering, for example persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.



- In accordance with DES advice – water fountains will be disconnected – so students should arrange to bring an adequate supply of water for the duration of the school day.
- Our student toilets are being adjusted to help maintain social distancing, new hand dryers have been installed in all toilets & we are working on installing warm water in the toilets.
- There will be 5 entrance & exit points for students. More details to follow.
- A one-way system has been installed in the building on the corridors, which students will be informed of upon their return.
- It is of the utmost importance to point out that all staff or students who have been abroad in ‘non-green list countries’ should not return to school until 14 days after arriving back in Ireland
- Cleaning products to sanitize surfaces will be available in all classrooms
- An isolation room will be provided in school to accommodate students who feel ill in school
- Please keep up to date with further information on our website at <https://www.preswex.ie/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Any new updates or information will be available on our website and parents/guardians will be texted to inform them.
- Please visit the DES website for further information <https://www.education.ie/covid19>

Updated information will be provided to the school community as when it becomes available.

William Ryan

11th August 2020