



Return to School 2020/2021
Update 3
Please note that this is update 3 of 3
Update 2 issued on the 13th August 2020

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.

Before school begins

➤ **What do I need to do before returning?**

As is the case in a normal school year, parents are expected to ensure that their daughters are prepared to return to school. This includes: getting the school uniform (including the PE uniform) and books, and ensuring your daughter has the correct equipment for each subject.

As this is such a unique situation we would also encourage you to speak to your daughter about their return to school. School will be different, and we need all our stakeholders to follow our new protocols for the safe return of students and staff. Students need to respect and understand the social distancing guidelines put in place.

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 students. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

➤ **Covid - 19**

We would ask all parents and students to familiarise themselves with Covid-19 symptoms:

- High temperature
- Shortness of breath
- Breathing difficulties
- Cough

➤ **What equipment do I need to get?**

Please check the booklist (which is available on the school website) for subject specific equipment. This is very important this year as students will not be allowed to share equipment. Students must have their own supply of pens, rulers, pencils, colouring pencils etc. If a student is using an iPad they need to check to make sure everything is in good working order and that they have the correct books downloaded.

All students should have with them each day the following items only:

- Journal
- Supplies – pencil case, calculator etc
- **iPad – for ALL year groups 1st to 6th Year**
- Refill Pads
- Students should have folders at home for each subject, & place all notes taken during the day in school into these folders each evening.
- No textbooks should be brought to school
- 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.
- Face Mask & Visor if they wish
- Wipes
- Tissues



- Coats will no longer be hung in base classrooms, so students will need to bring their coats with them when moving classroom or keep them in their bags.
 - ***Note this list may change before the school reopens***
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- **My daughter has an underlying health condition - what should I do?**
If your daughter has a serious medical condition and you are worried about her returning to school, please do not hesitate to contact one of the two Deputy Principals Ms Dooley or Ms C Ryan at 053 - 9124133
 - **How does my daughter get to school?**
This will depend on your own family circumstances. Students who are coming to school on a bus, should be advised by the bus operator on the protocols in place.
If you are arriving at school by car, we would like to remind parents that cars are not permitted inside the school gates. There is insufficient space for parents' cars to safely enter the grounds before and after school.
Where possible, we would encourage students to walk or cycle to school.
When students enter by the main gate, social distancing should be clearly observed.
I would ask students who plan on driving to school to note that there will be limited car parking spaces in the school this school year due to the start of construction of the new school building wing on the site of the basketball courts. Staff will have priority parking.

First day

- **Where should my daughter go on the first day of school?**
On the 1st day of school, all students should proceed to the Sports Hall & not enter the main building of the school.
- **What equipment / books should they bring?**
Students should bring their pencil case, and a refill pad & their iPad or device.
- **Can I pay the registration fee on this day?**
Yes. Students can pay the registration fee on the first day. In order to do so we would ask parents to place the money / cheque in a sealed envelope with the student's name, year group and amount. However, we would encourage Parents/Guardians, where possible, to make payments through Vsware online payments.
- **Am I allowed to bring my daughter into school?**
This is most likely with new first year students who are nervous and new to the school. This is a new adventure for the girls and it can be daunting, especially if they are the eldest. However, we would encourage parents not to accompany their daughters to the Sports Hall. Parents will not be allowed into the Sports Hall on these days.
- **Do I have to wear a face mask or visor?**
Yes. Students will not be allowed to enter the building without a face mask. If there is a medical reason why students cannot wear a mask or visor the school needs to be informed asap. Please contact us on 0539124133
- **What happens if I forget my face mask?**
The school will have an emergency supply of masks. Ask your year head or tutor.
- **What if I refuse to wear a face mask?**
If a student refuses to wear a mask, they will have to be collected from school and taken home.



School day

➤ New Timetable

Junior Grid 1st, 2nd, 3rd Years

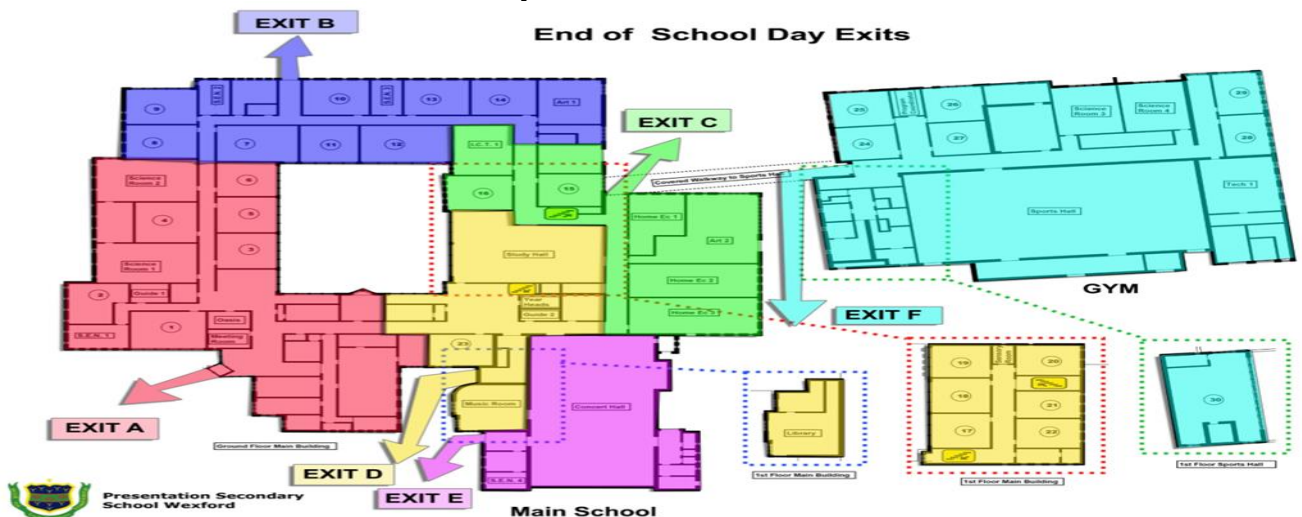
	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
1	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50
2	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50
BREAK	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.10	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.00
TUTOR	11.00 - 11.10	11.00 - 11.10	11.10 - 11.30	11.00 - 11.10	11.00 - 11.10
3	11.10 - 12.10	11.10 - 12.10	11.30 - 12.30	11.10 12.10	11.10 12.10
4	12.10 - 13.10	12.10 - 13.10	12.30 - 13.30	12.10 - 13.10	12.10 - 13.10
LUNCH	13.10 - 13.50	13.10 - 13.50	13.30 - 14.00	13.10 - 14.00	13.10 - 14.00
5	13.50 - 14.50	13.50 - 14.50	14.00 - 15.00	14.00 - 15.00	14.00 - 15.00
6	14.50 - 15.50	14.50 - 15.50			

Senior Grid 4th, 5th, 6th Years

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
1	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50	8.50 - 9.50
2	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50	9.50 - 10.50
TUTOR	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.10	10.50 - 11.00	10.50 - 11.00
BREAK	11.00 - 11.10	11.00 - 11.10	11.10 - 11.30	11.00 - 11.10	11.00 - 11.10
3	11.10 - 12.10	11.10 - 12.10	11.30 - 12.30	11.10 12.10	11.10 12.10
LUNCH	12.10 - 12.50	12.10 - 12.50	12.30 - 13.00	12.10 - 13.00	12.10 - 13.00
4	12.50 - 13.50	12.50 - 13.50	13.00 - 14.00	13.00 - 14.00	13.00 - 14.00
5	13.50 - 14.50	13.50 - 14.50	14.00 - 15.00	14.00 - 15.00	14.00 - 15.00
6	14.50 - 15.50	14.50 - 15.50			

➤ Where do I enter & exit the building?

Students will enter the building to whatever entrance A – F according to the class they have first class. You will exit at the exit nearest your last class.

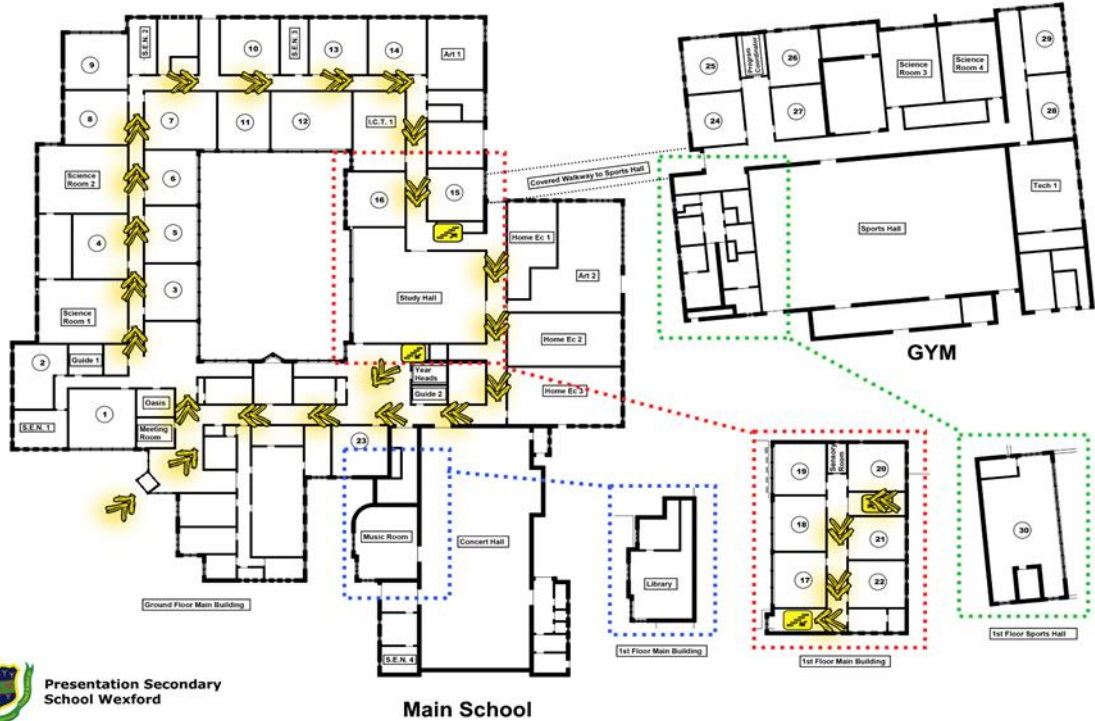




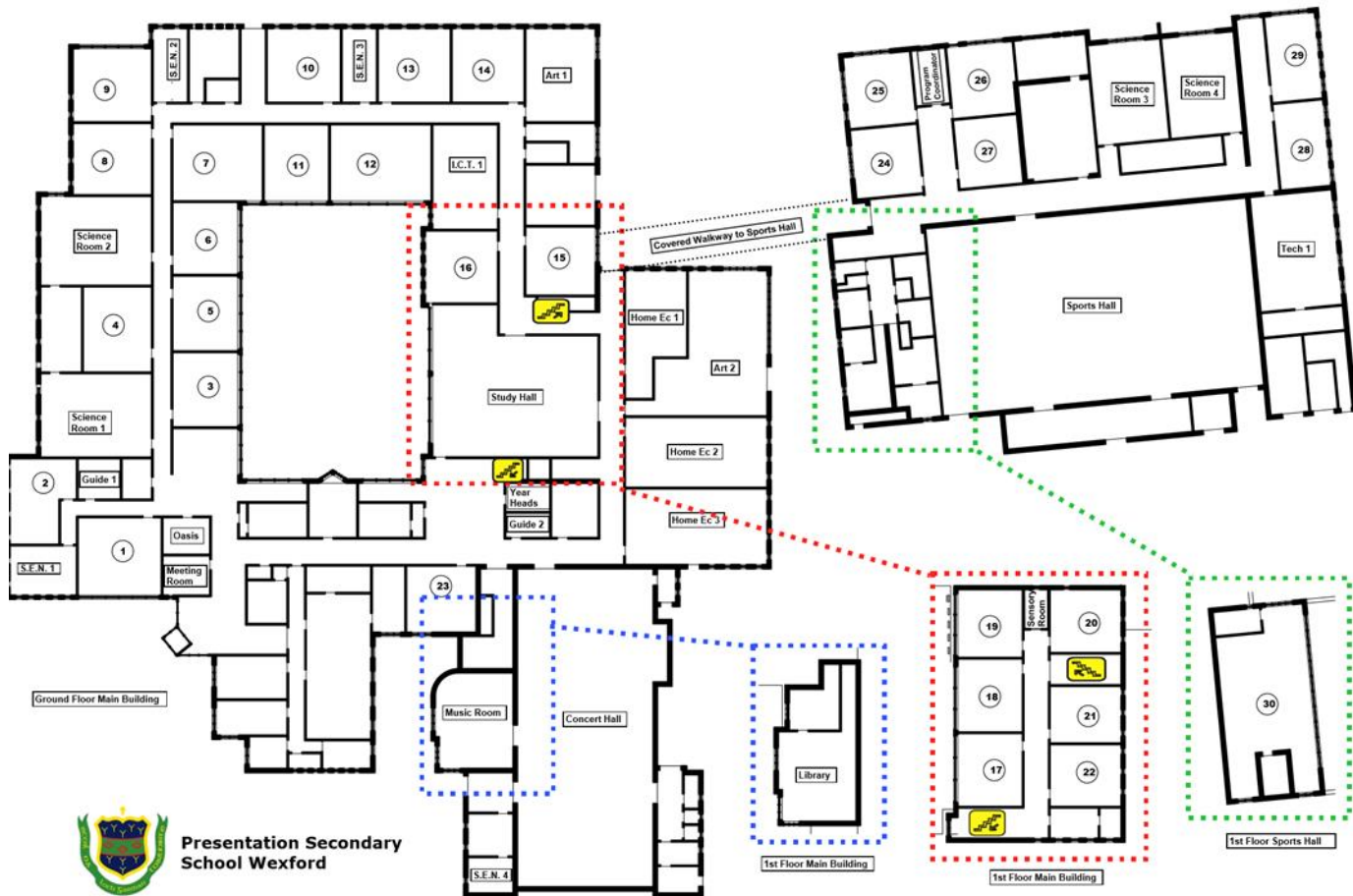
➤ Why a one way system?

We have introduced a one way system which will follow one route and also outside routes. This is to prevent student numbers from mixing on our corridors

School One-Way System



➤ New school room numbers





➤ **Do I have a locker?**

At the start of the year students will not have a locker. We have had to make substantial operational changes in the school and to our timetable to safely facilitate all our students on their return to school. We would like to see these changes in practice before we use lockers. We understand that this is not ideal, and that it will require better organisational skills from our students. If students are moving from one class to another they will have to bring their bag with them.

➤ **Am I wearing my school uniform?**

Yes. Students will be wearing the full school uniform. The Department of Education in their guidelines make no reference for the need for uniforms not to be worn to school.

The school uniform is an important part of our identity and creates a sense of belonging and normality. However, on the days that students have PE they are permitted to wear their PE uniform for the entire day. Students are allowed to wear their PE uniform on one other day during the week if they wish.

➤ **Is the school day the same as last year?**

We have had to introduce a two timetable system to safely operate two break and two lunch periods for our students and staff. See new grids above.

➤ **Do I have a 'pod'?**

Yes, and no.

Each year group will have their own part of the building and toilets.
Each class will have their own base class.



➤ **What will the classroom look like?**

Each classroom will be set up to meet social distance guidelines – some classrooms will be single file classrooms and some will be pods of three.

The teacher's desk will be at the top of the room.

There will be hand sanitizer outside each classroom, and also spray bottles and tissue paper to clean the desk and chair when you are leaving and entering the classroom.

➤ **Will I have art / science / home economics/graphics?**

Yes. There will be a full curriculum offered in PSS, Wexford. However, there will be new protocols in place for these subjects. These will be explained by your teachers when you return.

➤ **Will teachers be wearing a mask/visor?**

Yes.

➤ **What if I need help from my teacher?**

It is recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from students and it is not appropriate that they would always be expected to do so where this could have a detrimental impact on the student. However, where possible staff will maintain a minimum of 1 m distance and where possible 2m. They will also take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down.

➤ **Where do I go for my break / lunch times?**

Each year group will have a specified area where they may spend their break / lunch time. Year groups will not be allowed to mix during break / lunch times. If it is raining, students will have to have their breaks in their assigned classrooms.

➤ **Is there a canteen?**

Lunch & Canteen - small break and lunch times will now be staggered. Meaning there will be separate break & lunch times for Junior students (1st, 2nd & 3rd Years) and for Senior students (4th, 5th & 6th Years). Ovendoor catering will be on the premises as usual, and social distancing will be in operation.

Students will be asked to eat their small break and lunch in their classrooms, as there is limited space in the concert hall, study hall & Room 30 (Balcony)

➤ **Can I bring my own lunch?**

Yes, and we would encourage students to pack a healthy and nutritious lunch. Lunchboxes need to be washed every evening.

➤ **Can I exit through any door?**

No. Students will be exit each evening according to the nearest exit that they are in last class of the day.

➤ **Will my classroom be cleaned every day?**

Yes. Every classroom will be cleaned every day. Good hygiene is essential in our battle to suppress the virus.



Feeling unwell

➤ **Should I come to school if I am feeling unwell?**

No.

If you are exhibiting any Covid-19 symptoms, please contact your GP immediately and follow the guidelines provided by the HSE.

Please contact the school promptly in the morning to inform us of any significant illness.

➤ **I don't feel well during the day - what should I do?**

If a student is unwell they should speak to a teacher, their tutor or their year head. In the current climate, we would ask students to do this quickly and quietly.

➤ **What will happen if I feel unwell?**

Your year head, or the Deputy Principals or Principal will contact your parents/guardians.

You will be taken to a designated isolation area to wait for their arrival.

On arrival, parents will make their presence known to the administration office.

All HSE guidelines will be followed and we will communicate with the parents of all students providing the relevant advice.

Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

➤ **What do I do if someone in my house has Covid-19 symptoms or if they have come into contact with someone who has suspected Covid-19?**

To ensure the continued running of school we would ask parents to exercise caution in situations like this and not to send your daughter to school.

At all times the school will be guided in health matters by the Department of Education and the HSE.

Distance Learning

➤ **Is distance / blended learning in place for September?**

No. It is our intention to have all students present in class for the rest of the year.

➤ **If due to a Covid-19 outbreak or through government decision school is closed will there be distance learning?**

Yes. All students have a school email & an iPad.

➤ **Will there be a new timetable?**

No we would not envisage a new timetable for students. We would expect students to follow their normal timetable at home.

➤ **Will there be online classes?**

Yes. Students will have online classes. Teachers will give students the link to access this class.

➤ **If I have a problem with distance learning who do I contact?**

If it is a content question, or a question about a subject you should contact the subject teacher.

If you are having an IT issue or an issue with engagement you need to contact your year head or your relevant Year Head or Tutor. Email issues Ms O'Brien at mobrien@preswex.ie or iPad issue Ms V Redmond at ipadcoordinator@preswex.ie



Miscellaneous

➤ **Will there be extra-curricular activities?**

We hope so. These are extraordinary times, and we are under huge pressure to ensure your daughter's education. This means that we have to begin the new school year focusing on the safe operations of the school curriculum. However, we feel that extra-curricular activities are a huge part of the school experience for our students. We would hope to offer these activities to the girls during the year.

➤ **Will there be school trips in Ireland?**

Possibly. Students will be able to go on trips where social distance guidelines can be maintained. This will only take place where the risk to the safety of our students and staff can be minimised

➤ **Will there be Foreign Trips?**

No. For now the best advice is that all foreign trips for 2020/2021 will be cancelled or postponed.

➤ **Will there be evening study?**

Hopefully. We would hope that evening study will take place as usual. It may take a number of weeks before it is up and running.

➤ **Will there be inter-schools sports competitions?**

We don't know. This will be up to the governing bodies. However, as it currently stands it is hard to see these taking place this year.

➤ **Will parent-teacher meetings take place?**

There is currently no guidance in relation to parent-teacher meetings. But, as previously stated, it is hard to see these taking place this year as they have in previous years. We will keep you updated in relation to same.



Contact

➤ Who do I contact in school?

This depends on the situation. If it is a general question in regard to school then the first port of call is the administration office 053 – 9124133 or generaloffice@preswex.ie

If you have a question in relation to a subject, or are concerned about your daughter in relation to a specific subject then you contact the subject teacher. This can be done by contacting the admin office.

If you have a concern about your daughter, issues like bullying, anxiety, stress you should contact their year head.

For more serious issues, you may need to contact the Deputy Principal's Ms Dooley or Ms C Ryan or Mr Ryan, the Principal.

➤ Can I make an appointment?

Yes. All appointments will have to be made through the general office, we have limited space in reception and we ask that in the new school year anyone who has rang the office and arranged an appointment to follow the Covid-19 guidelines. All visitors to the school will have to sign the COVID-19 log for contact tracing purposes.

➤ Can I drop something into the office?

No. Parents are not permitted to enter the school. This includes bringing messages, equipment or food to students.

Online Training

The Department of Education has provided online training for school students and staff on the prevention of COVID-19 in school communities.

This is a requirement for all and a system will be in place to ensure that this has been watched and understood by you.

This webpage will be updated regularly with new videos coming online.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/dd7fb-induction-training-for-reopening-schools/t>

Top Tip: The Video is about 30 minutes long so sit back with a cup of tea or go for a walk and put your headphones on

➤ 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>

Another Update will be issued at the end of this week.

24th August 2020