

St Joseph's Patrician College, Galway. 'THE BISH'



Health and Safety Control of COVID-19 Policy for students

Ratification Date: 22 September 2020

Review Date: As required.

Revision Number: 2

This policy is in keeping with the Child Protection Procedures as adopted by the Board of Management. Teachers are reminded that they are mandated persons and must be familiar with their obligations with reference to the child first: National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the Children First Act 2015

Health and Safety Control of COVID-19 Policy for students

1. Introduction

Under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the board of management of St **Joseph's Patrician College** as employer is required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all employees of the school. The employer is further required to manage and conduct the school in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that individuals at the place of work who are not employees, such as students, parents/guardians, visitors to the school, are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare.

This policy is influenced by the need to minimise the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community and to prevent its spread. Although it is acknowledged that no single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, adherence to this policy will contribute to the reduction of that risk of transmission.

In accordance with this policy students are expected to comply with the standards of behaviour set out in this policy or as directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 control measures are consistent with current advice from the HSE, the Health and Safety Authority, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, as such, may be subject to change. Students and parents/guardians will be notified of any changes to the control measures.

Students are expected to comply with all directions from school staff in relation to the school's COVID-19 control measures. Any failure or refusal to comply with this policy or to follow instructions of school staff should be dealt with in accordance with the school's Code of Responsibility and Behaviour.

Parents/guardians are required to supply the school with a phone number/s of available person/s who can be contacted at all times and who will be available to collect a student from the school should the need arise.

2. Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to symptoms of cold or flu. The most common symptoms are:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath
- loss of sense of smell or taste

More information regarding the most up-to-date signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is available on the HSE website, <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>.

3. Standards of Behaviour expected of students to help prevent the introduction or spread of COVID - 19 in the school

Standards of Behaviour expected of students

Students are expected to comply with any control measures directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to:

- maintaining a social-distance of at least 1 metre and where possible, 2 metres, from other students and staff;
- wearing a face covering (applicable at post-primary level). All students at post-primary level, are required to wear a face covering subject to a limited number of exceptions set out in relevant Department of Education guidance. Face coverings must not contain any slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.
- performing hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser on entering the school.
- repeating hand-hygiene at regular intervals throughout the school day and when directed by school staff;
- maintaining good respiratory-hygiene. In this regard students should:
 - cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing/sneezing and dispose of used tissue in waste bin and perform hand hygiene
 - cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) rather than into the hand, if no tissues are available.
 - keep contaminated hands away from the eyes and nose
 - carry out hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials
 - not spit or deliberately cough or sneeze at or towards any other person in the school
- not sharing materials or stationery, such as pens, calculators, rulers, *etc.* with other students;
- not attending school for 14 days after returning from travel out of the country in line with Government guidelines for travel;
- not attending school if displaying COVID-19 like symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- not attending school where tested positive for COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- not attending school if identified by the HSE as a person who has been in contact with another person who has contracted COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice;
- not attending school if a member of the student's household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- telling a teacher or other member of staff where a student feels unwell at school. In that regard
 - the student will require to be collected from the school as soon as possible by a parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent/guardian for such purpose.
 - parents must ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details so that they can be contacted by the school if required.
- complying with any other such directions as advised by the DES and/or HSE and communicated to the school community.

During this unprecedented time, the Board of Management of St Joseph's Patrician College Galway, will endeavour to do all in its power to provide a safe and secure working/learning environment for all members of our school community. To this end, it is of vital importance that all members of the school community adhere to the safety measures that have been put in place.

Every single member of the Bish school community – staff, students and parents/ guardians – has to exercise personal responsibility in relation to Covid-19 prevention measures if our school is to re-open and then stay open. We all know by now what these measures are. It is most important that we implement them in full.

If in the event that a student is or students are suspected of having COVID 19 or diagnosed with same that they should be treated respectfully at all times by other members of the school community.

The following behaviours will result in a student being removed from class and placed in the care of his parents/guardians until the school management meet with the parents/guardians and are satisfied that the student no longer poses a risk to the health and safety of himself and any member of the wider school community:

- Refusing to wear at all times while on school premises or at school activities, a face mask / (face visor if medically required)) or appropriate PPE equipment as requested by the school's Board of Management and staff;
- Interfering with the face mask/PPE equipment worn by another member of the school community or any school equipment related to the spread of COVID 19.
- Deliberately coughing or sneezing in the direction of another member of the school community.
- Purposeful unauthorised physical contact with another in breach of social distancing regulations specific to avoiding the spread of Covid 19;
- Deliberately wearing the face mask/PPE equipment incorrectly.
- Misuse of sanitisers and any other sanitisation equipment on the school grounds.
- Not following the clear directions laid out by the school e.g. One Way Systems, sanitisation procedures and general hygiene practices on the school grounds.
- Refusal to carry out any/all reasonable requests made by staff members/management in order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 within our school community.
- Any deliberate behaviour that increase the risk of the spread of COVID 19.
- Students should not borrow or share items. E.g. pens, pencils, masks, water etc.
- Inappropriate comments or statements related to Covid-19 which compromise teaching, learning or the normal functioning of the school;

Students should be aware that the above is a non-exhaustive list. Students are expected to follow all instructions from staff which aim to prevent the introduction COVID-19 into the school and

minimise its spread.


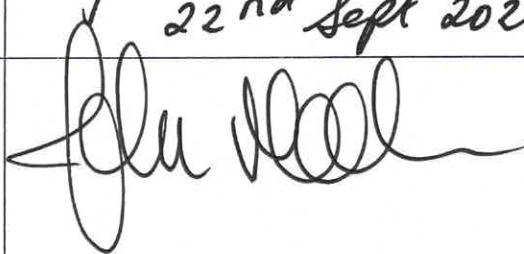
4. Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour

Failure by a student to comply with the standards of behaviour expected to help prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 will constitute a breach of the Code of Responsibility and Behaviour of **St Joseph's Patrician College** and he may be subject to sanction up to and including suspension or permanent exclusion.

Any actions or sanctions taken in respect of alleged breaches of the code of responsibility and behaviour will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the school's code of responsibility and behaviour, the requirements of the NEWB Guidelines on Developing a Code of Behaviour and relevant requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Sanctions will be proportionate to the nature, seriousness and context of the behaviour.

A student engaging in aggressive, threatening or unacceptable behaviour that creates or increases the risk of COVID-19 infection for staff, other students or visitors to the school may be removed from class and, if necessary, from the school premises with immediate effect, pending any further action to be taken in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management are required.

The Board of Management ratified this policy on the:	DATE: 22 nd September 2020
	Signed:
Myles McHugh Chairperson	 22 nd Sept 2020.
John Madden Secretary of the BOM	
Date of next review: As required.	