



Frequently Asked Questions – Parents

1. What if my child's temperature reads over 37.5 degrees at the time of bus collection/ drop off?

In line with risk assessments provided to schools a temperature of 37.5 or higher is considered a symptom of Covid -19 and as such the child will not be permitted to travel on the school bus / attend school.

2. Will my child have to wear a mask?

No as per DES guidelines no student with special educational needs is required to wear a face mask on either school transport or within the school.

3. What is a Pod and what is a bubble?

Put simply in the Red Door school a Bubble is the class your child is assigned to, the class will then be sub divided into smaller groups of pupils and staff called Pods. No Bubble should interact with the other and movement within pods will be reduced to a minimum and only when necessary.

4. What if there is a suspected case in the school?

If there is a suspected case in the school during school hours the child will be taken to an isolation area in the school. The COVID-19 lead worker will stay with the child and the child's care giver will be requested to pick up the child immediately and seek medical advice. It would not be unreasonable for the school to have several false alarms over the school term and so in following with best practices in order to avoid unnecessary panic and worry the school will not be reporting suspected cases.

5. What if there is a confirmed case of Covid – 19 in the school.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and confidentiality is essential at all times. The school will follow all advice and recommendations of the HSE

6. If there is a confirmed case in the school will the school be closed?

If there is a confirmed case at the Red Door School it will be the responsibility of the HSE to decide if the school is to remain open.

7. My child will not be travelling on school transport, I would prefer to drop them in personally. What do I do?

If your child is sanctioned school transport you need to make sure you let the driver know about your decision and email the principal confirming this change. No adults, other than staff members, should enter the premises / buildings. There will be no access beyond gates of any building at any time except by appointment with the office. Pupils being dropped or collected from school will be greeted in the car park by a designated staff member. Parents will remain in their car and the staff member will take your child's temperature, sanitise their hands and bring them in to school.

8. My child was sick in school, what is the procedure for collecting them?

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the parent should call the school mobile when they arrive. If the child is well enough the staff member supporting



the child will bring the child out to meet the parent at the school gate/car. If the child is too unwell a staff member will meet the parent at the gate, provide them with a face mask and accompany them to meet their child in the school while observing 2m distance at all times. The details on the sign-out sheet will be filled in by a staff member. Adults should wear a mask when entering the building and should use the hand sanitiser provided.

9. How can I communicate to the class teacher?

Ongoing communication will still be facilitated in all of the usual ways with the exception of face to face meetings for the moment. Adults will be asked to limit conversations at handover times to essential messages only. The adult will be asked to remain 2m from the staff member. In general, communications between parents and teachers should be carried out by phone call, email, or via the communication diary. Face to face meetings cannot be facilitated at present. Essential or urgent meetings may be facilitated using Zoom.

10. How do I know if I should keep my child home from school?

We will be issuing Return to School Forms to be completed weekly, if your answer to any question is 'no' then your child should not attend school.

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should **NOT** attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

11. If my child has to stay home to self isolate how will they catch up on missed school time?

We will proactively plan for work packs for students in the eventuality that they need to self isolate. Teachers will be in contact with parents of students who are at home to assign work and support remotely as far as is practicable.

12. Can I send in toys/resources from home with my child?

The crossover of materials/equipment between school and home will need to be extremely limited to only items which are absolutely essential (for example a communication book or device) We have asked all parents on this years booklists to provide a closed plastic container capable of holding all of your child's personal items. These items will remain in school.

13. My child needs a phone/toy/ipad to keep them occupied on the school bus will this be allowed?

Yes, this will be facilitated, however we ask that the parent sanitise such items immediately before and after they use the bus each day. Such items must remain inside your child school bag during the day and will not be permitted for use during the school day.