

Meánscoil Naomh Aingil
School
Clochar na nUrsulach
Port Láirge
[Website: www.ursulinewaterford.ie](http://www.ursulinewaterford.ie)
[Email: office@ursw.ie](mailto:office@ursw.ie)



St. Angela's Secondary
Ursuline Convent
Waterford
[Telephone: \(051\) 876510](tel:051876510)
[Roll No: 64990D](http://www.ursw.ie)

August 2020

Dear parents/ guardians,

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school for the new academic year after nearly six months of school closure. Online teaching and learning from March to May was a steep learning curve for us all.

We do appreciate the challenge ahead for students, parents and staff as we plan for the reopening of St. Angela's. We are working hard to ensure that all government guidelines are adhered to. Our Covid 19 Response Plan for the Safe Reopening of Post Primary Schools is available here on our website. Also available - The Roadmap for the Full Return to School, Managing Anxiety and Stress and Managing Panic.

Rest assured that we will take our time settling back into school life, taking time to catch up and to adjust to a new type of teaching and learning with physical distancing.

We must continue to work together and follow the advice to ensure safety for all.

You will have many questions about the reopening of our school, hopefully the following points will address these. We will continue to update you in the coming weeks. Please bear with us as we communicate by phone, email and text, as per government guidelines, visitors to the school during the day should be by prior arrangement with the Principal. It is most important that we have your correct contact details.

1. Induction dates and Registration

Students should go directly to the Sports Hall on Induction Days. No books required, notebook and pen only.

6th Year: Monday 31st August 1.30 - 3.30

5th Year: Tuesday 1st September 9.30 - 11.30

4th Year: Thursday 3rd September 1.30 – 3.30

3rd Year: Tuesday 1st September 1.30 – 3.30

2nd Year: Thursday 3rd September 9.30 – 11.30

1st Year: Wednesday 2nd September 9.30 – 3.00

FULL SCHOOL DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS: Friday 4th September

Registration for students in 2nd to 6th Year is now open on VSware

2. Timetable

Timetables are now available to view on VShare. Any issues, please contact the Deputy Principal in charge of your daughter's Year Group.

3. Base classrooms

- The capacity of each classroom has been calculated and rooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distance of at least 1m between individual students and staff in line with guidance.
- All non-essential furniture has been removed, leaving only chairs and tables.
- Each Tutor Group is assigned a Base Classroom, where, as far as possible, their lessons will be timetabled.
- Students are not allowed into other Base Classrooms.
- Base Classrooms will be available before school, at breaktime and lunchtime. Students may eat in their Base Classrooms but may also go outside, go home or go to the shop as normal.
- Friends from other Tutor Groups may socialize together at break and lunch times outside or on the corridors where **physical distancing** allows.
- No items should be left in Base Classrooms, except for coats which can be hung at back of the room.

4. Personal Responsibility

It is essential that each student has her name clearly written on all her belongings, including lunchbox, school bag and jacket. Students are reminded not to bring valuables into school and avoid bringing expensive jackets. Students are asked to adhere to physical distancing of 1m at all times.

5. Lockers

Students will have access to their locker. We will carefully monitor movement on the corridors and may have to limit access to certain times of the day.

6. Uniform

PE uniform to be worn for the full day on PE day. Full school uniform as per our Code of Behaviour on all other days. **Face coverings to be worn by all students.** Students are advised to have three clean reusable masks per day, stored in a plastic bag. Masks should be washed on a daily basis. Advice on face coverings may be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/>

7. Arrival/ departure/ movement around the school

- Walking or cycling to school should be considered.
- Students will have access to additional entrance and exit doors before 9a.m. and when school finishes. These will be explained during induction.
- Students arriving after 9a.m. should only enter school via reception.
- Students should only walk on the left-hand side of a corridor when moving between classrooms.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers will be located at all entry and exit points of school and classrooms.

- All students to sanitise their hands before entering a classroom.
- Bathroom capacity will be limited, and social distancing queues will operate.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to phone or email the school to arrange an appointment. Unfortunately, dropping into reception ad lib is no longer permitted.

8. School Day

School starts at 9.00am for all students and finishes at the usual times of 3.25pm or 4.05pm for all students. Break and lunch times are the same as normal for all students. Tuck shop open at lunch time only. Normal lunch rooms (Refectory, Study Hall, Brescia Hall and Library) not available. Water fountains, microwave, toasters and kettles not available. Each student should ensure that they have self-contained snacks, drinks and lunch every day.

9. Extra Space

We have created some additional space around the school by removing all excess furniture from classrooms and corridors.

10. Supervision

Additional supervision will be in place before and after school, as well as throughout the day to ensure that physical distancing is maintained particularly at the lockers, toilets, change of class and end of the school day.

11. After School Study and Homework Club

These will commence on Monday 7th September. Payment and registration details to follow.

12. Extra-Curricular Activities

We hope to organise extra-curricular activities. However, we are awaiting further guidance.

13. Cleaning

An enhanced cleaning regime in school will ensure that the guidelines are followed.

Hand Sanitiser will be outside every room and at every entry door.

Soap dispensers in toilets for handwashing.

Cleaning products will be available in all rooms

14. Advice on how to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19 in schools

- Students must not attend school if they have symptoms of Covid-19 or if they have been identified by the HSE as a contact for a person with Covid-19.
- If students develop symptoms at school, they must bring this to the attention of the Principal or Deputy Principal promptly. An isolation room is available for students while they wait for parents to collect them.
- Symptoms of Covid-19 are:
 - High temperature
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

- Students should make sure that they, and the people around them, follow good respiratory hygiene.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of any used tissues immediately and safely into a nearby bin.
- Students should practice good hand hygiene
 - Good hand hygiene is achieved by washing hands regularly or the use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).
 - Students should not shake hands and should avoid any physical contact with others. Students are asked not to share any equipment.
 - HSE guidelines on hand washing can be found by following this link: <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>
- Students should perform hand hygiene
 - On arrival at school
 - Before eating or drinking
 - After using the toilet
 - After petting animals
 - After playing outside
 - When their hands are physically dirty
 - When they cough or sneeze

14. Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad:

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.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation as we begin this challenging school year. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or worries.

Yours faithfully,

Bernadette McGlynn



Principal

bmg@ursw.ie

Geraldine Barber

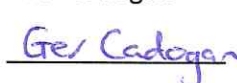


Deputy Principal

4th and 5th Year

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Ger Cadogan

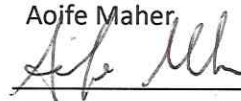


Deputy Principal

2nd and 6th Year

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Aoife Maher



Deputy Principal

1st and 3rd Year

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