

Meánscoil Naomh Aingil
School
Clochar na nUrsulach
Port Láirge
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St. Angela's Secondary
Ursuline Convent
Waterford
[Telephone: \(051\) 876510](tel:051876510)
[Roll No: 64990D](tel:051876510)

August 2021

Dear parents/ guardians,

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school for the new academic year after a challenging time last year including a period of school closure.

We do appreciate the challenge ahead for students, parents and staff as we plan for the reopening of St. Angela's for a second year with Covid-19 restrictions in place. Our Covid 19 Response Plan for the Safe Reopening of Post Primary Schools is available here on our website.

The Department of Education has prepared guidance and videos with some back to school advice for parents and children on issues relating to a return to school. You are encouraged to discuss this advice with your child before they return to school.

This information can be found on gov.ie or by clicking on the following links:

1. Back to school advice for parents and children

[gov.ie - Information for students, parents and families \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

2. Multilingual advice for parents

[gov.ie - Resources and materials for parents/guardians and for students on returning to school \(multi-lingual\) \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

3. Communications to Parents regarding School Transport – SEN and Post Primary

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/64a88-school-transport>

Rest assured that we will take our time settling back into school life, taking time to catch up and to adjust to school again following all Covid-19 guidelines.

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

Please note the following:

1. Communication

We will continue to update you in the coming weeks if guidelines change. Please ensure that you have downloaded the VSware App so that you may access VSmile easily on your phone. 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.

2. Induction dates and Registration

Students should go directly to their base classrooms on Induction Days. No books required, notebook and pen only.

6th Year: Monday 30th August 1.30 - 3.30

5th Year: Tuesday 31st August 9.30 - 11.30

4th Year: Thursday 2nd September 1.30 – 3.30

3rd Year: Tuesday 31st August 1.30 – 3.30

2nd Year: Thursday 2nd September 9.30 – 11.30

1st Year: Wednesday 1st September 9.30 – 3.00

FULL SCHOOL DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS: Friday 3rd September

Registration for students in 2nd to 6th Year is now open on VShare. Registration may also be completed in the general office half an hour before or after Induction.

3. Timetable

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

4. Base classrooms

- 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.
- 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 always adhere to physical distancing of 1m.

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. During Winter months when the weather is colder, an outer layer may be worn over the school jumper. Regular uniform checks take place during the term.

Face coverings to be worn by all students.

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.

9. Lunchtime

Tuck shop will be at lunchtimes. All students will remain within the school grounds at lunchtime. We have increased the capacity of our outdoor seating areas and encourage students to eat outside when the weather is fine.

11. After School Study and Homework Club

Details to be confirmed.

12. Extra-Curricular Activities

We are awaiting further guidance on this.

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.

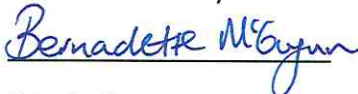
- Symptoms of Covid-19 are:
 - High temperature
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste
- Students should make sure that they, and the people around them, follow good respiratory hygiene.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or 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

Any student failing to adhere to any of the safety measures in place may be removed from class and placed in the care of her parents/guardians until the school management meets with the parents/guardians and are satisfied that the student no longer poses a risk to the health and safety of herself or any member of the wider school community.

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

Yours faithfully,

Bernadette McGlynn



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