



Dominican College Sion Hill COVID 19 Response Plan – Supporting Material for Parents, Guardians and Students

Date: 20th August 2020

Dominican College Sion Hill is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our students. As part of our planning for the reopening of Dominican College Sion Hill, we have:

- Developed a COVID-19 Policy statement
- Updated our risk assessments to minimise the risk of being exposed to Covid-19. This revised Risk Assessment includes all relevant updates and necessary control measures to minimise the risk of staff and others being exposed to Covid-19 and these will be incorporated into the Safety Statement for Dominican College Sion Hill in line with requirements of section 20 of the 2005 Act.
- Implemented the “COVID-19 Response Plan for the sustainable reopening of Post Primary Schools” issued by the Department of Education and Skills on July 28th 2020.

This document, which gives details of some specific measures being taken in our school, should be read in conjunction with the above policies and assessments. It is not an exhaustive list and does not replace the above policies and assessments.

Planning & Preparing for Return to School

Display Signage

Dominican College Sion Hill will display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and toilets.

Changes to School Layout

Maintaining Physical Distancing is one of the key measures to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19. In Dominican College Sion Hill:

- We will Implement a strict one way system throughout the school, with clear signs to guide students in its effective use;
- Classrooms will be reconfigured to support physical distancing;
- The changing rooms will not be in use;
- Water fountains will not be in use;
- Lockers will not be in use;
- There is a designated area where any suspected COVID-19 cases will be isolated while waiting to leave the school.

Access to School and Contact Log

- Access to the school building will be in line with agreed school procedures. Students entering or leaving school outside the normal start and end to the day will sign in and out digitally using the school app and digital station in the school lobby;
- A detailed sign-in/sign-out log will be maintained for other visitors to the school.

School drop-off & collection

If students are being dropped to or collected from school, they are asked to arrange a collection point well away from the main entrance to the school. This is to prevent unnecessary crowding at the front gate. The school grounds are strictly for staff cars only.

Lunch and Break times

- Students will remain in the class they were in prior to break for their morning break;
- Each year group will have its own designated lunch area. These areas will be sufficiently large to allow for physical distancing during lunch breaks. There will be no mixing between different year groups.

Control Measures to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in schools

- Students that have symptoms should not attend school, and should phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- Students should not attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as contact for a person with COVID-19 and should follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- Students that develop symptoms at school should bring this to the attention of the principal (or deputy principal if the principal is unavailable) promptly;
- Students should know the protocol for managing a suspected case of COVID-19 in school
- Everyone entering the school building needs to perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser;
- Visitors to the school during the day should be by prior arrangement only and should be received at a specific contact point;
- Physical distancing of 2 metres should be maintained between staff and visitors where possible.

Physical Distancing

In Dominican College Sion Hill, we will be increasing separation by:

- Adjusting classroom layouts to maximise the available space;
- Using additional areas of the school, such as the auditorium and drama room, for teaching groups.

In Dominican College Sion Hill, the use of one-hour classes means that transitions during the day are already minimised. We will also be decreasing interaction by:

- Implementing a strict one-way system throughout the school. Transitions between rooms will be efficient and minimise interactions with other class groups. Classrooms will be left unlocked to prevent gathering in corridors;
- Eliminating the use of lockers and changing rooms. Students will wear their school tracksuit to school on days they have PE / sport. This will also facilitate increased washing of school uniforms;
- Using assigned lunch areas for each year group;
- Ensuring that, on arrival to school, students go straight to the location of their first class of the day – they will not congregate in communal areas;
- Having a staggered end to the day meaning not all students will leave the school at the same time;
- In banded classes, where students are not in base classes, every effort should be made to group base classes together, while still maintaining maximum physical distancing between all students.

Hygiene and Cleaning

- When students are moving between classrooms, appropriate cleaning products will be provided to enable them to wipe down their desk, chair and surface before leaving the room. Any equipment used will also be cleaned appropriately. There will be time allocated at the end of each class to allow for this cleaning to take place effectively;
- All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area;
- There will be regular collection of used waste disposal bags from offices and other areas within the school facility.

Special Arrangements

Overflow area

It is envisaged that the majority of classes will be able to proceed as normal while maintaining 1 m distance between students. For the small number of classes where this may not be possible, there will be designated overflow areas throughout the school where students can go to access that class remotely. These will be managed on an ongoing basis. Students should bring earphones for use with their iPads in the event they are in an overflow area for a class.

Digital submissions

To minimise the risks associated with collecting paperwork from students, digital submissions, using the SchoolWise platform will be used as much as possible. Ongoing training will be provided to students in this area.

Weight of school bags

Staff will be considerate of the lack of lockers for use by students and will make every effort to minimise the weight of schoolbags.

Face coverings

Teachers and students should wear face coverings, similar to those worn in shops or on public transport, when a suitable physical distance can not be maintained. To this end, all students should bring suitable face coverings for use during the day should they be required.

Duties

The co-operation and assistance of the whole school community is essential to reduce the risk of spread of COVID19 and to protect health and safety as far as possible within the school. All school community members have a key role to play. Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adhere to the School COVID-19 Response Plan and the control measures outlined;
- Must be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Coordinate practices and work with their colleagues to ensure that physical distancing is maintained;
- Make themselves aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor their own wellbeing;
- Self-isolate at home and contact their GP promptly for further advice if they display any symptoms of COVID-19;
- Not return to or attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 under any circumstances;
- Adhere to the procedure outlined in the School Response Plan if they develop any symptoms of COVID -19 whilst within the school facility;
- Keep themselves informed of the updated advice of the public health authorities and comply with same . Importantly, this includes complying with the most up to date guidelines on quarantine after travel.