

Le Chéile Secondary School

Return to School Parent Information Booklet



Le Chéile Secondary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to welcome your children back to the school building at the end of the month. Whilst school never 'closed' and we worked hard to maintain our Le Chéile Spirit throughout the lockdown, nothing could replace the laughter and chatter of our wonderful students and we look forward to the corridors and classrooms being filled with their vibrancy once again.

Over the past number of weeks, we have been working hard to put in place protocols which will ensure that school is compliant with the DES guidelines "Covid-19 Response plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of post-primary schools". We all have a responsibility teachers, students and parents to follow these school protocols and we would ask that you take the time to read through this booklet with your child and familiarise yourself with the content. We understand that this is an anxious time for many and in providing you with as much detail as possible we hope that you will feel reassured as your child begins the new school year.

Our Core Values and Root Beliefs will be our guiding principle as we begin our school year and we look forward to supporting our students and ensuring that they have a rewarding and fulfilling school year.

With every good wish,



Ms. Leona Harrington (Principal)



Ms. Róisín Ní Dhonncha (Deputy Principal)



Ms. Emer Walsh (Deputy Principal)

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Covid-19 Response Team

The school has put in place a Covid -19 Response Team who will oversee the work that needs to be carried out in order to open the school. This team will remain in place for the school year to ensure the highest possible standards of safety are maintained.

Code of Behaviour Amendment

It is vital that students follow the systems and protocols to ensure that we maintain the highest possible safety standards in the school. Please stress the importance of following the school Code of Behaviour and the safety plan with your child.

The Board of Management may decide to make amendments to our Code of Behaviour to reflect our new practices and policies. We will notify parents of any changes should they be sanctioned by the Board.

Stay at home if unwell

To safeguard the health and safety of the school community it is important that parents /guardians understand their responsibility to ensure that if your child displays any Covid-19 symptoms they should not attend school

If you are contacted by the school due to your child being unwell or having suspected symptoms, it is imperative that arrangements are made for the quick and safe collection of your child from the school.

All parents & guardians are advised to have alternative arrangements in place in such event if you are unable to collect your child at the time of being contacted by school. The DES guidelines make it clear that any student who is ill should be collected immediately by a parent/ guardian or emergency contact person.

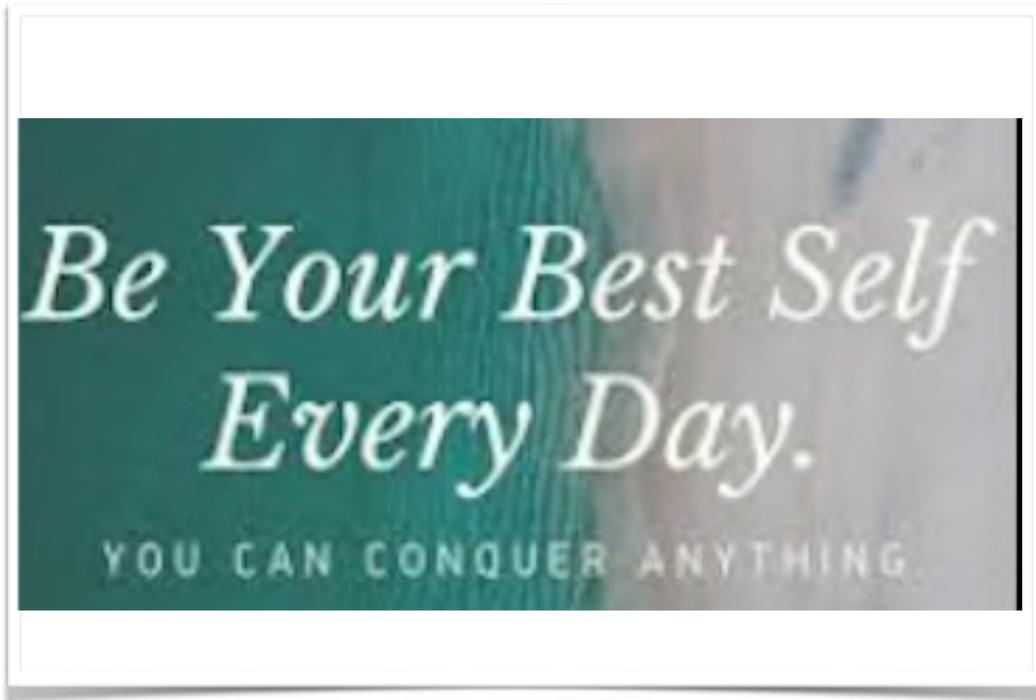
Contact Details

It is very important that all student contact details are accurate and up to date. In the event of a medical concern we must be able to contact parents and guardians immediately.

Please check your VS Ware account to ensure all details are correct. Any amendments should be notified to the school office immediately.

Hand Sanitisers -Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Each classroom has been fitted with a hand sanitiser station. There are also a number of hand sanitiser units through the common areas of the school. Students will be asked to sanitise their hands on entry and exit from classrooms.



Face coverings

In line with Government advice, students must wear a face covering in class. Students **will not be allowed** enter the school buildings without a face covering.

Students may not use bandanas or scarves or other such materials as face coverings.

Please remind your child on the correct use of their face coverings - visors / masks to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

Re-usable / washable masks are the more comfortable option and these should be washed daily in line with HSE guidelines.

Our teachers, SNA's and support staff will also wear masks/visors.

Entry & Exit of Building

To minimise the volume of students entering the school through the same door different year groups will now have their own designated entrance and exits. Students will be advised of this on their first day back.

Lockers

In line with the DES guidelines students will not initially be assigned a locker.

Our one to one device policy along with teacher created

content means that the numbers of books that students need are minimised. Teachers will endeavour to limit the number of copies & equipment students will need to bring to school each day. It is important that students have their own books and equipment as students will not be allowed to share/borrow any items from their peers or their teachers.

To ensure that we can deep clean the school each evening we are asking that students do not leave any belongings in the school overnight.

Student Zones

Given the number of option subjects studied by our students it is not possible to keep them in their own designated classrooms. Our specialist rooms will remain operational with social distancing protocols in place and rigorous cleaning regimes.

A one way system has been implemented in the school and it is vitally important that all students adhere to this system to ensure that we maximise social distancing when moving through the school and maintain the safety of all at the change of lessons



Covid-19 Isolation Room

Le Chéile Secondary School will have a designated Isolation area for any student who presents with Covid 19 symptoms.

Appointment only access to School Premises

In the line Government Guidelines access to the school is now *Strictly by Appointment Only* . Parents & Guardians are asked to make an appointment before coming into the school

It is important that students take the time each evening to organise their school bags as if your child has forgotten a school item they will be unable to contact home to have it dropped in. In the current climate, we cannot facilitate the dropping off of lunches, books, equipment etc to the front door during the school day.

Water Dispensers

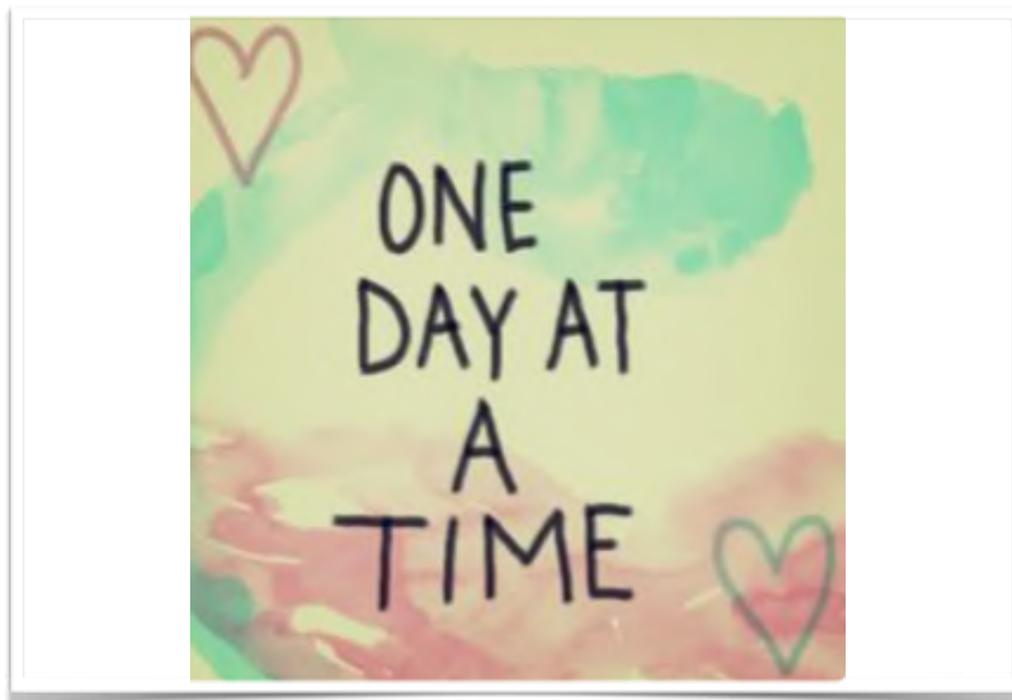
For health and safety reasons the water dispensers will be out of use. Students should bring in their own water to school. In support of our Green Schools policy and care for the environment we would ask that students try to bring a reusable water bottle to minimise single use plastic waste.

Cleaning Protocols for all School Activities

We have increased the cleaning rota throughout the school day and a sanitising schedule has been put in place for all areas of the school. Classroom desks and chairs will be sanitised at the end of each lesson. Our practical subjects will have cleaning protocols for any equipment used by the students during their practical lessons.

Roller towels have been removed from the bathrooms and replaced with paper towel dispensers. We would ask that students are sensible in their use of these paper towels and are mindful of the environmental implications of using more than necessary. We would encourage students to bring a small face towel to school each day which they can have for their own personal use. We will be using antibacterial sanitising soap in our soap dispensers.

The PE changing rooms will not be in use so students will be permitted to wear their PE uniform to school on their PE days. Only **school PE uniform is allowed** and we would ask that parents support us with this. Our normal school rules apply for any student who presents in school out of school uniform on a day other than their PE day.



Timetabling amendments

To minimise movement around the school building and to maximise social distancing protocols, there have been some changes to the timetables. The school will operate a split lunch model. 1st, 2nd and 3rd years will have their lunch together and 5th, 6th and TY students will have their lunch together. During the lunch breaks, students from each year group will be allocated different zones in the school. Students will not be allowed to have lunch with peers from a different year group. Break and lunchtimes will be outdoors for as long as the weather permits. It is important that students have time in the fresh air each day. We would ask parents to support us in this decision by ensuring that your child has their school jacket with them each day.

We are asking that students do not arrive to school more than 10 minutes before the beginning of the school day. As the lockers will be out of use students will be able to go straight to their tutor classroom. Students will not be allowed to congregate in the communal areas in the morning.

For the moment we will not be in a position to run the Breakfast Club. We recognise the importance of this service for our students and will do all we can to find a safe way to facilitate Breakfast Club as we move forward. We will keep parents updated.

We ask that students leave the building promptly and sensibly at the end of the school day maintaining social distance protocols.

Social Distancing during Class Time

In line with government guidelines we have reconfigured our classrooms to ensure a one metre social distance between students. The government advice is that we have no more than 24 students in a classroom and where this is not possible students are withdrawn to an overflow room. Our one to one context and the effective way with which we use technology to support student learning is a strength of Le Chéile. Any student who is withdrawn to an overflow room will have access to the lesson through their iPad.

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.



Pastoral Care

We are acutely aware of how difficult this pandemic has been for our young people and their families. We know that many of you are facing new challenges as we move forward and begin to contemplate this new normality.

We again acknowledge our many parents who have worked and continue to work on the frontline in so many different roles throughout this crisis. We can only imagine how difficult this continues to be for you and your families.

We keep in our thoughts those families who have faced illness and the loss of loved ones in recent weeks and months, the Le Chéile school community hold you in our thoughts and prayers.

As we reopen the school we will operate enhanced pastoral supports for all our students. Our Year Heads, Care Team and Guidance Counsellor will be available for any student who may need additional support.

In summary child will need:

- A mask (preferable reusable and washable)
- A fully equipped pencil case, pens, pencils, rulers, colours, maths set, calculator etc. No sharing will be possible
- **School** PE kit to be worn for the full day on PE days

- Full school uniform on all other days
- It is vital that students have their iPads in school and fully charged each day
- You may want to give your child a face towel (for hand drying) & a small bottle of sanitiser. These are not however compulsory as the school is well equipped with sanitiser stations and paper hand towels.

Review

We are committed to ensuring that our school community is a safe and happy place of our students. We will monitor and review our systems and protocols and amend them as necessary.

We look forward with hope to our new school year. I have no doubt that working together we will overcome whatever challenges we are faced with as we open our school and welcome our students back.. Thank you to all our parents for your ongoing support.