



Le Chéile Secondary School
Hollystown Road
Tyrrelstown
Dublin 15



Le Chéile Secondary School

www.lecheilesecondaryschool.ie

01-8227181

14th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our first week back was a great success and our students are to be commended for their diligence and cooperation in adhering to the new safety procedures implemented in the school.

We are delighted to see the level of consideration for the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community being exhibited daily by students.

As I am sure you can appreciate, now that all students are on site, we are reviewing the systems and procedures that are in place and making necessary adjustments.

This letter is to clarify and outline procedures for parents/guardians that are essential to the smooth running of the school. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Face masks

Only student who have provided a letter from their GP stating that their son/daughter has difficulty wearing a face mask are permitted to wear a visor. ALL other student are expected to wear a face mask. Please see guidance below from the Department of Education in relation to the use of face masks:

It is compulsory for teachers, staff and students attending secondary schools to wear a face-covering when a physical distance of 2 metres from other staff or students cannot be maintained.

If a student is refusing to wear a mask they will need a letter from their GP giving the reason they can't wear it.

Signing out

Appointments should not be scheduled during school time if possible.

If your son/daughter must attend an **essential** appointment, the following steps should be followed:

1. If the appointment is early in the morning, keep your son/daughter at home and return them to school after the appointment.
2. If the appointment is later in the day, collect your son/daughter from school but they should not return to school after the appointment.
3. In both instances, a parent/guardian MUST complete a visitor access request at least 24 hours in advance

In an effort to keep Covid 19 out of the school, we must minimise the number of visitors and this includes parents/guardians dropping/collecting students for appointments. We must be able to accurately contact trace all visitors.

Visitor Access Request: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X87Neam9DEWFg2tcx65jhCQI8XnZHj9Is20CfYYv_51UN0JMMVRSSkgxQ1EyMTk0UVM1SU5SQzIVOS4u

Close Contacts

If any member of your family is being tested, or in the process of contacting their GP for advice re-testing, you should keep your child at home. Please see HSE information leaflet for clear advice and guidance in relation to attending school.

COVID-19 Advice for parents



Symptoms to look out for and when to contact your GP

Schools are back and the winter season is ahead of us. Every year, schoolchildren get colds, flu and other infections. This time, coronavirus (COVID-19) is with us.

Here is a guide on what symptoms to look out for and what to do if your child is unwell.

When to keep your child at home and phone your GP

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus

You will need to:

1. Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.
2. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.
3. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a coronavirus test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

When it's okay to send your child to school or childcare

It's usually okay to send your child to school or childcare if they:

- only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny nose or a sneeze
- do not have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen)
- do not have a cough
- have not been in close contact with anyone who has coronavirus
- do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- have been told by a GP that their illness is caused by something else, that is not coronavirus. Your GP will tell you when they can return to school or childcare
- have got a negative ('not detected') coronavirus test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours

Most of the time, you do not need to phone your GP if a runny nose or sneezing are your child's only symptoms. Talk to your pharmacist instead.

Student presenting Sick to Reception

If your child is sick with non-Covid related symptoms or illness, please assess in the morning if your child will be able to remain in the school for the entire day. If you are in any doubt, please keep them at home as we are trying to limit the number of visitors to the school including parents/guardians collecting a sick child.

Dropping forgotten items to school

You must not bring any items that your child forgets to school. We will not accept them.

We ask that parents/guardians support their children in ensuring that their bag is packed the night before and that they have all items needed.

PE Uniform

When students are timetabled for PE they must wear the school PE tracksuit. The tracksuit must be neat, clean and presentable. We are aware that in a small number of cases there may be some delays in the supply of PE uniform from the School Wearhouse. In this interim period and with a note from parents students may wear plain black tracksuit bottoms and a plain white top, leggings are not allowed.

Communication with the School

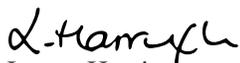
If you are not receiving text messages from the school, you must contact the office at covid19@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie to provide your most up to date contact details. All our correspondence is now through text messages, our website and social media pages.

As the week progresses there may be further updates and changes but we will communicate them as they arise.

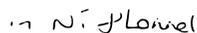
Thank you to the significant majority of parents for your ongoing support and cooperation. It is disappointing that a small minority of parents have been unsupportive and at times aggressive in their engagements with us through email, telephone calls and in person. Our partnership with parents is very important to us and we welcome your feedback. We would however ask that this feedback is presented in a measured and calm manner reflecting the ethos of respect which is at the heart of our school's value system.

Can I again reassure you that the protocols we have implemented in Le Chéile are in response to the Government's Roadmap for the Reopening of Schools. These protocols, particularly those in relation to the wearing of face masks are being implemented in all post primary schools across the country. All measures we have put in place are to ensure the safety of your children and our school community.

With every good wish,



Leona Harrington
Principal



Róisín Ní Dhonncha
Deputy Principal



Emer Walshe
Deputy Principal