



Advice for parents during Covid-19:

Symptoms to look out for



If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- > A temperature of 38 degrees Celcius or more
- > A new cough
- > Loss or changed sense of taste or smell
- > Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- > Fatigue
- > Aches or pains
- > Sore throats
- > Headaches
- > Diarrhoea
- > Runny or stuff nose
- > Feeling sick or vomiting



For more see [gov.ie/backtoschool](https://www.gov.ie/backtoschool)



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would appreciate it if you could take some time to read this important message about COVID-19 in our school.

*The attached image details symptoms of COVID-19 in children. If your child has ANY of those symptoms, contact your GP and **do not** send them to school. If your child comes to school with symptoms (and you have not informed us that they have had a negative PCR test), they will be isolated and sent home).*

We have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school in the last week. With the permission of the parents of the children involved, the other parents of children in those classes have already been informed. The symptoms of the positive cases varied – some were very mild; a runny nose/a scratchy throat/an upset tummy. If your child has symptoms, please don't decide yourself that 'it's just a cold' or 'it's not COVID'. This needs to be confirmed by a negative PCR test. We have very vulnerable pupils and vulnerable staff members in our school who we are all trying to protect, and I would really appreciate it if you could be extra vigilant at this time and follow the guidelines.

As you may be aware there is also a shortage of substitute teachers at the moment. In the event that the class teacher is absent due to illness and no substitute is available, we may have no alternative but to send the class home. This is happening in many schools. We need to protect our staff at this time, so please do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell.

The latest advice from the Chief Medical Officer is that if your child has symptoms of COVID-19, a negative antigen test is not sufficient in determining that they don't have COVID-19 and they must have a PCR test. The use of antigen tests will be brought in for school-based close contacts in the coming weeks, but this will only apply where a child has no symptoms. If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, they must have a PCR test before returning to school.

I would like to sincerely thank parents/guardians who have been following the guidelines and who have kept their children at home when they displayed any symptoms and who have informed us of results of PCR tests.

I fully understand and appreciate the inconvenience it causes if you need to keep your child at home, but I am pleading with you to follow the guidelines strictly.

Regards,
Karl.

[Please also find important information here re: self-isolating in different scenarios;](#)

Isolation Guide Adults: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20Adults%20and%20children%20from%20their%2013th%20birthday.pdf>

Isolation Guide Children: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20under%2013s.pdf>



Congratulations to the 5th and 6th Class students who are taking part in the Marathon Kids initiative. As Covid-19 has prevented the children travelling to Morton Stadium again this year, the final mile will be completed here on site. Some of the classes have already completed their final mile and we wish the other classes the best over the coming weeks in completing theirs.



A lovely act of kindness!



Congratulations to this young lady, Lucy from Aisling's 4th Class who got an amazing 14 inches off her beautiful hair and donated it to *The Little Princess Trust*. We think she is a star and a true ambassador for our school and our Ethos of helping others. Well done Lucy!!!

Board of Management

As communicated to you in our previous newsletter, our Chairperson Yvonne Coakley is stepping down from her role, effective January 2022. The Board of Management are therefore inviting applications from within our school community to contact the school info@swordseducatetogether.ie if they wish to express their interest in the position. The process is then handed over to our Patron, Educate Together to select the successful candidate. Applications for this position should be submitted to the school, no later than **Friday 3rd December, 2.10p.m.** We will be in contact in due course with the details of the appointment.



SETNS Memory Stars

Over the last few years, a **Christmas Memory Tree** has been placed in the school. This proved to be very popular. Therefore, we are putting it up again. As with other years, we use the tree to display our **Memory Stars** where we distribute blank stars to all families in the school and invite you to return them with names of people who you would like to remember written on them. These stars will then be displayed on the tree in the school foyer during December.

Envelopes with stars will be sent home with the children over the coming weeks. If you would like to add to our display, please write the name(s) on your star and return it, in its envelope, to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Additional stars are available on request.

Child Safeguarding and Anti Bullying Checklists

Last week our Board of Management met to review our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment as well as completing the required Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Checklists.

Our Safeguarding Statement has been updated to reflect current changes in risk to children's safety while in school. The Statement and Risk Assessment can be viewed on our website.

www.swordseducatetogether.ie



Swords Educate Together National School
Roll Number: 201420

The Board of Management of **Swords Educate Together National School** wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 16th November 2021.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed Yvonne Coakley Date 16th November 2021
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Neil O'Sullivan Date 16th November 2021
Principal

Notification regarding the Board of Management's annual review of the anti-bullying policy

To: _____
The Board of Management of Swords ETAS wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation was completed at the Board meeting of 16/11/21 (date).
- This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in **Appendix 4** of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Signed Yvonne Coakley Date 16-11-21
Chairperson, Board of Management
Signed Neil O'Sullivan Date 16/11/21
Principal

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Huge thanks to those of you who have donated to our November Voluntary Contributions. As payments are online there is still an opportunity for families to contribute. We have already earmarked some of the monies raised for Science and Maths equipment as well as Aistear materials, toys, dress up clothes and art materials. We would also like to invest some money and time into outdoor play equipment for Spring when the weather is more suitable. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions to date.



Thank you to all parents/guardians for engaging with our Parent-Teacher Meeting phone calls this week. We understand that communication is better face to face and we hope for a time that we can resume standard parent-teacher meetings again.