



Tarbert Comprehensive School

26/8/20

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I write to you with our final update on our reopening plans for students next week.

Covid-19 Policy Statement

The Covid-19 Policy Statement of Tarbert Comprehensive School has been published on the School website along with this document. It outlines some of our approaches to dealing with the virus in general.

Welcome Pack

All students on entry will be given a welcome pack containing sanitiser, desk cloth, disposable face masks and a visor. These items are merely as a starter pack for school. Parents/guardians must replenish these items themselves when necessary. Equally parents/guardians are asked to ensure the items are wiped down or washed appropriately and frequently.

Assemblies

An assembly and induction will be held on the first morning each year group returns to school. This will be conducted in the gym hall so that the year group can appropriately social distance. Covid-19 procedures as well as the normal school procedures and timetables etc. will be discussed. Students are asked to go to the assembly hall directly on arrival to school on their first morning (see updated calendar on the school website).

School entrances

School entrances will now be specifically labelled for each particular year group. After the first day's assembly, and all subsequent school days - each student is asked to use the appropriate entrance for their year group, as labelled.

School shop

The School shop will open and operate as normal, like all other shops. Students can continue to purchase school stationary, food and drinks as they have in the past. However please be aware students must appropriately social distance while queuing for this facility.

Face Coverings

A face covering of some kind is compulsory for entry to School - be it a cloth mask or visor. **The face covering must be appropriate and respectful.** No student will be allowed to attend/enter school without a face covering of some kind. For the most part visors are our preferred means of face covering as we have observed many people (and young people especially) incorrectly wearing masks as they find breathing difficult especially over a prolonged period. Equally the cloth masks can become wet and uncomfortable - especially if there are no replacements at hand.

Visors do not offer the same constraints and so we feel young people are more likely to wear them correctly. In addition, visors are more conducive to teaching and learning as they do not constrain students breathing, voice etc. to the same degree as cloth masks. The use of face coverings - along with the other measures we are putting in place such as sanitisers, hand washing etc. will hopefully reduce the threat of the virus entering or spreading within the school. That said the 2m social distancing requirement is not always possible in school - and if this is the case cloth masks are encouraged. Cloth masks are also a requirement on buses.

Both visors and cloth masks will be given to students (once off) on return to school and we ask parents to purchase sufficient reserves for their children.

We are also conscious of students and those with family members who may be in the very high risk or high risk categories - so should your children be in the high risk or very high risk categories or indeed they have family members in those categories, then of course wearing a cloth mask (3 layered cloth masks are best) is strongly encouraged in class and on the corridors but is very much a personal choice.

Finally - when students are in the open air, keeping at least 2m apart - then we will not be enforcing the face covering requirement - the fresh air will be more beneficial.

First Years

We welcome our new First Years to school on Tuesday September 1st (Full day – buses will run as normal). At 9am students will be inducted in the gym hall and issued their classes etc. Please be aware that considerable planning, preparation and care has gone into generating those 4 classes – swapping or moving classes is not allowed under any circumstances and requests will not be entertained. Timetables etc. will also be distributed on this morning. We wish our new First Years the very best in this new exciting journey.

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Prendiville', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Richard Prendiville

PRINCIPAL