



St. Vincent's Students

Let's Keep Our Community Safe Covid-19 Protocols at St. Vincent's



Important:

- 1.If your son (or anyone in your household) is *or* becomes unwell - keep him at home and notify the school.
- 2.Any student/family member that has been overseas must follow government protocols before returning to the school community. Please email or phone the school and notify us if this applies to you and/or your son.
- 3.If a student/family member is a suspected close contact of someone with Covid-19, those who have been fully vaccinated can attend school as long as they are symptom free- whilst those who have not been vaccinated must follow HSE guidelines. Please notify the school reception by telephone without delay.

Each Morning at Home:



Take your temperature. If it's above 38°C stay at home, notify the school of your absence and call your GP for further advice.



If you've developed a cough or chest infection in recent days, stay at home, notify the school and speak with your GP before returning to school.



If anyone at home has a temperature or has developed a cough, shortness of breath/changes to smell and taste, stay at home, notify the school and consult your GP before returning to St. Vincent's.



Make sure to have your own face mask whether you are travelling to school on public transport or not. ALSO please bring spare masks to school.



Make sure to have your own personal hand sanitiser before you leave home.

Covid Hygiene:

- Always cough and sneeze into your elbow
- Tissues and hand sanitisers are provided in all classrooms
- Wash your hands and sanitise them after using the toilet or touching shared items.
- Sanitise your hands at regular intervals
- Avoid handshakes, physical contact with others in the school community where possible as this increases the risk of transmission.
- Every time you leave a desk or sit down at a new one (for optional subjects and levels) clean your desk with an antibacterial wipe.

Lunchtime...

- All students must leave the school building at lunchtime. They may go to the shop as long as they adhere to social distancing and face covering guidelines. However, we would prefer if students brought lunch items into school and stayed on site. Therefore please try to bring in any lunch items you might need with you.

Important: As we have several students with severe allergies, food containing nuts and seeds are not permitted on school grounds.

If a student or staff member becomes unwell in school:

- Anyone who becomes unwell in school with Covid-related symptoms will be given a fresh facemask and accompanied to one of our two isolation rooms.
- They will then be assessed by our First Aid Responders and more than likely sent home. Parents/guardians will be notified if they need to collect their son. They are not permitted to travel on public transport.
- It's important that isolation procedures are then adhered to by the entire family until your family doctor has been consulted.
- If an individual has been isolated then sent home, the school must receive notification from the student's G.P. before he/she can return to the school.

Remember- Students and staff with any sort of acute illness should not attend school.

Take care of your emotional and mental well-being

This is a challenging time for everyone; be patient, have respect for those around you and speak with your family, friends and form teacher if you feel overwhelmed. All these measures are aimed at protecting both you, school staff and your loved ones.



Changes to School Life:

You must enter the school via the pedestrian front gate (at the canteen end of the school). Do not enter through the primary school or the car entrance: these access points are closed to all pedestrians.

Junior and Senior students have designated spaces in the school yard, wait in the area assigned to your group for the school to open. Juniors and seniors are asked not to mix in the yard, stay in your designated area.

At 08:40 when the school bell sounds, line up with your form class in your assigned space - as you would do in a fire drill. Everyone's temperature will be taken before entry into the school. Students with a temperature will be assessed and may not be admitted to school- parents/families will be notified in this event.

Rather than teachers remaining in a particular class all day, form groups will be anchored to designated classrooms except for optional subjects and level choices - this reduces activity on the corridors- congestion- transmission risk.

Students and staff must walk on the left hand side of the corridor and staircase. This is to avoid congestion. Move quickly between classes, do not stop to chat with other students, maintain social distancing as much as possible and wear your masks.

When you change classrooms, clean the desk you are leaving with an antibacterial wipe (available in all classrooms) and then clean the desk in your next classroom before settling in.

Classroom chairs and desks have been socially distanced for everyone's safety and markers on the floor indicate where desks should be. Please ensure your desk stays in the position it has been assigned to.

Tutorial and break times are staggered to reduce congestion in the yard.

- Juniors will have break time at 10:46 -10:58 and tutorial time from 10:58 to 11:10
- Seniors will have tutorial time at 10:46-10:58 and break time from 10:58 to 11:10

At small break you can only exit through the door at the boys' toilet (Door B) - but you must re-enter the school via the door beside room 104 (Door A). When leaving and entering the school remember to walk on the left side at all times.

Hot lunches are served in the gym- the queue for lunch is formed at the main entrance to the gym (near the oratory door). At lunchtime, leave the school and make your way to this door- do not try to access the gym through the school.

The end of the school day: Leave via the nearest available exit and do not remove your mask until you are outside. Wear your mask at all times inside the school building.

What happens if there's a Covid + case in or associated with, our school community?

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for the virus, the HSE will notify St. Vincent's then in turn, all students, staff and parents/guardians will be notified without delay by the school.

Student and Family Checklist

If Unwell - Stay at Home



- If your son, or someone at home or in your contact circle is sick or unwell, don't take any chances- keep him out of school, notify reception and contact your G.P.
- If your son has a chronic condition that you believe puts him at increased risk, seek medical advice from your GP before he returns to school. Contact our First Aid team at school if you have any specific issues you'd like to discuss.
Email: pw@stvincentsd11.ie

Have and Wear a Mask



- Those coming on public or private transport need to have and wear a mask. They must be worn in school also when entering and leaving the building.
- Frequently last year students came to school without masks or they broke them during the day, could all parents ensure that their son(s) have a supply of masks in their bags for each day.

Hand & Environmental Hygiene



- All students should carry personal hand sanitisers.
- However, the school has installed sanitisers throughout the building and in order to protect each other it is vital that we wash our hands thoroughly after using the toilet and sanitise following the use of any shared items.
- Teachers will provide ample opportunities throughout the day for students to sanitise their hands.
- The school will be cleaned daily and antibacterial wipes will be provided for all students and teachers so that they can keep their work space clean at all times.

Physical Distancing



- Students must refrain from close contact with other students; including handshakes/hugging etc.
- The school has been repurposed to facilitate physical distancing in the classrooms and minimal contact and congestion in common areas but ultimately each student must be diligent and proactive to ensure the safety of all.

Cough Etiquette



- Students must use the tissues provided in every classroom when coughing and sneezing. In the absence of a tissue they must cough/sneeze into their elbow, never into open air.

Parents/Guardians should only come to the school by appointment.

Do not arrive at the school without prior notice and approval from management.
Please use email/phone options where possible when engaging with the school office and/or teachers.

#StopTheSpread