Derryoober National School

Phone:086 0463344

www.derryooberschool.ie

derryoobernationalschool@yahoo.ie

Principal Mr. Padraig Lohan

086 4163722

Safe Return to School 2020/21:

Guidance for Parent(s), Guardian(s), Carer(s) and Students

24.8.20
Next meeting

Conte	ents	Page
1.0:	Introduction	3
2.0:	Student Wellbeing	3
3.0:	Measures and Operational Changes Implemented in	
	School	4
3.1:	Minimising the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19	
	into the School Community	4
3.2:	Managing the Risk of the Spread of COVID- 19	
	if Introduced into the School Community	6
4.0:	Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19	13
5.0:	Guidance on Learning and School Programmes	
	in 2020/21	14
6.0:	Supporting Students 'at very high risk' to COVID-19	17
7.0:	Supporting Teaching and Learning in the Home where	
	there is Localised School Closure	18
8.0:	Communication with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	
9.0	Student voice	19

1.0: Introduction

As the management and staff of Derryoober National School prepare for the reopening of school, we know that most students, will be looking forward to going back, reconnecting with school, reconnecting with staff and friends and settling back into school work. This will be a time of change; students will be changing classes, and some may be changing teachers. Additionally, there will be new rules and routines to learn, to keep everyone safe during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Derryoober National School endeavour to ensure that our students will settle and re-engage with little difficulty in a safe and secure learning environment.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts and challenges that parent(s)/guardian(s) had in supporting your son(s)/daughter(s) continued education when schools were closed. Derryoober National Schools' management and staff would like to reassure you of our continued support for your son(s)/daughter(s) wellbeing and learning during this time of transition and change. This information booklet will illustrate the 'new normal' for Derryoober National School for your son(s)/daughter(s) safe return.

2.0: Student Wellbeing

The management and staff of Derryoober National School are looking forward to welcoming your son(s)/daughter(s) back and by helping them re-engage with learning in school. Many will feel excited, relieved, and happy. Some may feel a little anxious and worried about getting back. That is to be expected and it is a normal response at a time of transition and change. Most students will settle in over time, as they reconnect with friends and get used to the new school safety routines. Supporting a successful transition back to what will be our new normal is best achieved by prioritising and supporting the wellbeing of our students at this time of transition and change.

It will be helped by fostering resilience using five key principles:

- 1. promoting a sense of safety so that students feel that they are safe, and that those around them are safe
- 2. promoting a sense of calm so that students feel relaxed, composed, and grounded (regulated)
- 3. promoting a sense of belonging and connectedness so that students feel welcome and experience meaningful relationships with friends and staff, who understand and support them
- 4. promoting a sense of self-efficacy— so that students believe that they can manage the transition back to school
- 5. promoting a sense of hope so that students believe and trust that things will work out well on their return to school.

3.0: Measures and Operational Changes Implemented in School

The measures set out in the Public Health Advice are based on two general recommendations:

1. Minimising the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community; and

2. Managing the risk of spread if introduced through:

- 1. Regular hand hygiene.
- 2. Maintaining physical distancing; (3rd 6th class)
- 3. Application of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- 4. The use of face coverings/masks in school; (Staff) and
- 5. Enhanced cleaning regimes within our school.

3.1: Minimising the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into the School Community

In terms of *Minimising the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community*, **it is critical that people stay at home if unwell**. Nobody should go to school if they are unwell or any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms.

They are:

- √ High temperature
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste
- 1. **If students have any or all the above symptoms, they should not attend school,** parents/carers should phone their doctor and follow HSE guidance on self-isolation.
- 2. Students should not attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as contact for a person with COVID-19 and follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement.
- 3. If students develop symptoms at school this must be brought to the attention of the Principal promptly.
- 4. Ensure that students know the protocol for managing a suspected case of COVID-19 in school (as outlined in section 4.0)
- 5. Every student entering the school building must perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser at the main entrances and continue to wash hands and sanitise during the day.
- 6. Meetings between a parent/guardian of a student with the Principal, or staff member will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal. A prior appointment must be made.
- 7. Necessary arrangements have been made to limit access to the school to visitors and maintain records of contacts to the school. Access to the school building will be in line with agreed school procedures. Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents with be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal. The Department of Education Inspectorate may also need to visit schools and centres for education to support them as appropriate in the implementation of public health advice relating to creating a safe learning and working environment for all. The prompt identification

and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a crucial step in restricting the spread of the virus and protecting the health and safety of the individuals themselves and other staff, contractors, and visitors at the workplace. A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities should be maintained. The school should maintain a log of staff and pupil contacts. The Data Protection Commission has provided guidance on the data protection implications of the return to work protocols. This advice can be found here. Schools are reminded that all school records and data must be maintained and processed in compliance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Acts. The responsibility for compliance with the legislation rests with each school in their role as data controller. A detailed sign in log of parents/guardians and all visitors entering the school facilities will be maintained for the prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals.

8. Physical distancing of 2 metres should be maintained and a face covering/mask must be worn. (all adults)

3.2: Managing the Risk of the Spread of COVID- 19 if Introduced into the School Community

3.2.1: Supporting and Promoting Good Hand Hygiene

Derryoober National School in line with Public Health Advice and the Department of Education response plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary schools will ensure that:

- 1. Students will understand the importance of hand hygiene to manage COVID-19 in school.
- 2. Students will have access to training in wellbeing classes and by class teachers on when to wash hands and how to wash them properly.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene

Students should perform hand hygiene:

- ✓ On arrival at school.
- ✓ Before eating or drinking.
- ✓ After using the toilet.
- ✓ After petting animals.
- ✓ After playing outdoors.
- ✓ When their hands are physically dirty.
- ✓ When they cough or sneeze.
- 3. Laminated posters displaying hand washing techniques and promoting hand washing are placed on walls adjacent to washing facilities and will serve as a reminder to students.
- 4. Videos on hand washing techniques will be widely circulated to all stakeholders.
- 5. Students will understand that hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).
- 6. Use of hand hygiene facilities will be managed to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitisers.

- 7. Warm water is preferable to hot or cold water for hand washing and will be provided in all washing areas of the school.
- 8. Hand washing facilities, running water, liquid soap and hand drying facilities/paper towels will be provided in all toilets, kitchens, and any food preparation areas.
- 9. Hand washing facilities will be maintained in good condition and supplies of soap and hand sanitiser will be topped up regularly to encourage everyone to use them.
- 10. Hand driers are working efficiently and will be regularly maintained in the toilet facilities.
- 11. Hand sanitiser dispensers have been deployed more readily at exit and entry points of schools and in all classrooms. Care will be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risks of falls.
- 12. When hand rubs/gels are being used in school, care will be taken to ensure that students do not ingest them as they are flammable and toxic.

3.2.2: Maintaining Physical Distancing

Desks and chairs in classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distancing as best as possible.

Each classroom is being treated as a Class Bubble; this includes pupils across several class years. The key point is to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people in different Class Bubbles. Class bubbles will not apply in outdoor settings.

Physical distancing falls into two categories:

- Increasing separation
- Decreasing interaction

Increasing Separation

- 1. All unnecessary cabinets, furniture, clutter etc. have been removed to maximise space in the classrooms and the school building.
- **2.** Students will be responsible for their own property i.e. lunchboxes, drinks bottles, pencil cases, books, etc.
- **3.** Each student is required to have a dedicated school pencil case, this will be left in their classroom at their place.
- **4.** All lunchboxes, drinks bottles etc must have the child's name clearly marked. It is important to emphasise that sharing of items is not permissible and ensure that lunch boxes and drinks bottles are washed and sanitised every day for use in school the following day. For **Lunches**, parents/guardians must make sure that children bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day. Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice. If a child forgets their lunch a parent can leave the child's lunch in the school entrance lobby.

5. Second class will have classes in the senior room until 2 pm. They will have phonics and Irish class in the junior room from 2-2.50 pm. They will return to the senior room at 2.50pm.

Decreasing Interaction

1. Physical Distancing in the classroom and within the school

- 1. The wearing of a face covering or mask to protect and respect each other is compulsory among all staff whilst they are in the classroom and within the school.
- 2. Physical distancing of at least 1m has be maintained between desks or between individual students or staff (As far as possible and practical).
- 3. Hand washing and/or sanitising will be required when moving between classes by teachers and students.
- 4. Physical distancing between the teacher and class will be observed.
- 5. Where movement of class groups/individual pupils between rooms is required it will be planned to minimise interaction with other class groups.
- 6. Interaction on arrival and departure and in hallways and other shared areas will be limited
- 7. Social physical contact (hand to hand greetings, hugs) are to be avoided.
- 8. Where students need to move about within the classroom to perform activities (access to a shared resource) it will be organised to the greatest degree possible to minimise congregation at the shared resource by the class teacher.
- 9. Staff and students should avoid sharing of personal items.
- **10.** Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets, the contact surface of the device should be cleaned regularly, and hand hygiene encouraged. **Parent/Teacher**
- 11. Parent/Teacher Meetings may take place via phone/ Zoom or be postponed. We will assess the situation closer to the time. Decisions on holding Parent/Teacher Meetings will be based on Current Guidelines, Government Restrictions, and IT support.

2. Physical Distancing outside of the classroom and within the school

School drop off/collection to minimise the risks, and to help us to maintain social distancing, the children may not come into the school before 9.10 am. Children using the childcare facility can be in the childcare Facility at its normal opening times. Please drive slowly and carefully in the carpark.

Morning:

All class teachers will be in their classrooms by 9.10am

Parents/Guardians are asked to 'stop, drop and go' in the car park anytime between 9.10am and 9.20am

All children, including the children using the Childcare facility will enter the school through the main school door from 9.10am.

Children will go directly to their classrooms on arrival.

Afternoon:

From 31st August onwards:

- 1.50pm Breda Conaghan (Derryoober Childcare) will collect Junior & Senior Infants from the classroom door.
- 1.55pm Class teacher will bring **Junior & Senior Infants** to the main school door. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, 'stop, pick up and go' until 2.00p.m.

From 31st August onwards:

- 2.50pm Breda Conaghan (Derryoober Childcare) will collect children from the senior classroom door.
- 2.55pm The Senior Class teacher will bring their classes to the main school door for collection. Parents/Guardians are asked to 'Stop, pick up and Go' until 3.00p.m.

The School bus will operate as normal.

This system will apply rain, hail, or shine so please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather!

Summarised Timetable for Drop Off and Pick Up

- 9.10am All staff to be present to support arrival of pupils
- 9.10-9.20am Arrival of pupils 'Stop, Drop, Go' system. No adults to enter the school building. Children to go straight to their classrooms upon arrival.
- 1.50pm Derryoober Childcare Junior/Senior Infants
- 1.55-2pm 'Stop, pick up, go' Junior/Senior Infants
- 2.50pm Derryoober Childcare –Remaining Classes
- 2.55-3pm 'Stop, Pick up Go' Remaining Classes
- 1. Arrangements for dropping off/collecting students should be arranged to maintain physical distancing of 2m where possible.
- 2. Congregation of people at the school carpark where physical distancing requirements may not be respected is to be avoided.
- 3. The main entrance to the school will be used to enter and exit the school in the morning and evening.

- 4. Upon arrival students must—hand sanitise, go to assigned seat (which will remain their seat for ever school day).
- 5. The rear entrance will be used by the students to enter/exit the school during all break-times.

3.2.3: Application of Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

It is imperative that students and the people around them, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means:

- ✓ A student should cover his/her mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze
- ✓ Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby pedal bin and wash hands or sanitise immediately.
- ✓ Alternatively, students can cough or sneeze into her/his bent elbow.

By following good respiratory hygiene, students protect the people around them from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

3.2.4: The use of face Coverings/Masks PPE in School

The Interim Guidance for the use of face-coverings in educational settings provided by the HPSC on 6th August 2020 made the following recommendations for use of face-coverings in educational settings.

- 1. It is recommended that teachers and staff at Primary schools wear a face-covering when a physical distance of 2 meters from other staff or students cannot be maintained.
- 2. In certain situations, the use of clear visors should be considered, for example staff interacting with students with hearing difficulties or learning difficulties.
- 3. If Teachers/Staff cannot wear face coverings or visors for health reasons please call the school Principal to record a health reason that could put the staff member into the 'high risk' category and/or any other medical condition before Thursday 27th August. Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they will apply standard precautions as per usual.

4. Gloves

There is no need for the children to wear disposable gloves. They are considered inappropriate under the guidelines. Staff members do not need to wear disposable gloves unless they are looking after a pupil's intimate care needs or administering First Aid.

There will be an emphasis on hand hygiene rather than on the wearing of disposable gloves.

3.2.5: Impact of COVID-19 on Certain School Activities

The Department of Education and Skills will provide more detailed advice on school activities in advance of school reopening.

1. School Play/ Performance

Performances and music practices/performances involving may pose a higher level of risk and special consideration will be given to how they are held ensuring that the room is well-ventilated and the distance between performers and the audience is maintained. Decisions on holding such events will be based on Current Guidelines and Government Restrictions.

2. Physical Education/Extra-curricular Activities

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities such as Dancing, Coaching for games, Safe Cycling course, etc. will be explored. Decisions will be based on Current Guidelines and Government Restrictions.

See HSPC guidance on return to sport.

Physical Education and Wellbeing

Physical Education lessons will take place outside when the weather allows.

Staff members and pupils may take additional breaks outside during the school day. All classes are encouraged to participate in 'The Daily Mile'.

3. Shared Equipment

Toys

All toys should be cleaned on a regular basis (weekly, for example). This will remove dust and dirt that can harbour germs.

Toys that are visibly dirty or contaminated with blood or bodily fluids should be taken out of use immediately for cleaning or disposal.

When purchasing toys choose ones that are easy to clean and disinfect (when necessary).

If cloth or soft toys are used, they should be machine washable.

Jigsaws, puzzles, and toys that young pupils to those with special educational needs may be inclined to put into their mouths should be capable of being washed and disinfected.

All play equipment should be checked for signs of damage for example breaks or cracks. If they cannot be repaired or cleaned, they should be discarded.

Clean toys and equipment should be stored in a clean container or clean cupboard. The manufacturer's instructions should always be followed.

At this time soft modelling materials and play dough where used should be for individual use only.

Cleaning Procedure for Toys

- wash the toy in warm soapy water, using a brush to get into crevices
- rinse the toy in clean water
- thoroughly dry the toy
- some hard-plastic toys may be suitable for cleaning in the dishwasher

- toys that cannot be immersed in water that is electronic or wind up should be wiped with a damp cloth and dried
- in some situations, toys/equipment may need to be disinfected following cleaning for example: toys/equipment that pupils place in their mouths. Toys/equipment that have been soiled with blood or body fluids or toys where a case of COVID-19 has been identified

If disinfection is required: A chlorine releasing disinfectant should be used diluted to a concentration of 1,000ppm available chlorine. The item should be rinsed and dried thoroughly.

Art

All students will be provided with their own individual art and equipment supplies by the school.

Electronics

Shared electronic devices such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards should be cleaned between use and consideration could be given to the use of wipeable covers for electronics to facilitate cleaning.

Musical Equipment/Instruments

To the greatest extent possible, instruments should not be shared between students and if sharing is required, the instruments should be cleaned with a disinfectant wipe in between use.

Textbooks/Stationery

All Students will have their own books provided by the school through the book rental scheme. All students will provide their own copies, pencils, pencil-case, colours etc at the start of the school year. (31st August).

Junior/Senior Infants

Stationery (Clearly labelled with child's name)

- Pencil case (Clearly labelled with child's name)
- 2 Jumbo Grip Pencil -Faber Castell Red
- Dust Free Erasers
- Double hole Pencil Sharpener (Enclosed)
- Set of Erasable Jumbo Crayons 12pk.
- 2 Pritt sticks
- 2 Strong Plastic Mesh Zip folders-A4 for homework.
- 2 Junior Sum Copies 20mm squares
- ➤ 2 Project Copies-15 A top blank, bottom wide ruled.
- ➤ 20 address labels with Child's name clearly written
- ➤ A4 Button Wallets Bright 4 pack x 1 (Clearly labelled with child's name)

➤ A5 Button Wallet Clear 4 Pack x 1(Clearly labelled with child's name)

Second – Sixth Class

Stationery (Clearly labelled with child's name)

- Pencil case (Clearly labelled with child's name)
- 2 pencil's (own preference)
- Dust Free Erasers
- Double hole Pencil Sharpener (Enclosed)
- Set of Twistable (Colours)
- 2 Pritt sticks
- Safety Scissors
- 2 Strong Plastic Mesh Zip folders-A4 for homework.
- 2 Sum Copies 10 mm squares (Second Class)
 7 mm squares (5th & 6th Class)
- ➤ 5 Writing Copies 88/120 page
- 20 address labels with Child's name clearly written
- ➤ A4 Button Wallets 4 pack x 1 (Clearly labelled with child's name)

Shared Sports Equipment

Equipment sharing will be minimised and shared equipment will be sanitised between uses by different people. All children are required to have their own Hurley and helmet clearly named.

Derryoober National School will endeavour to help meet the needs of our students to have individual supplies for the specialised classes and will be informed about the same upon their return.

School Uniform

There is no guidance or advice to say that school uniforms should be washed every day, and this is probably not practical for most families. Please ensure that uniforms are kept clean and well maintained. It is compulsory that each uniform is labelled clearly with the child's name.

We will follow our usual practice in relation to uniforms. Uniforms should be worn every day, except on P.E. days, or when otherwise requested by teachers. Due to Covid 19 restrictions it is preferable

that each child wears their training shorts under their tracksuit, and their jersey instead of their polo shirt on P.E. days. Football boots & Sports socks can be brought in schoolbag or training bag.

3.2.6: Enhanced Cleaning Regimes within our School

- 1. The school setting will be deep cleaned once a day and additional cleaning during school hours will be focused on frequently touched surfaces door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities.
- 2. Students will clean and disinfect their work area after use each time they move to another classroom (disinfectant wipes will be available from class teacher)
- 3. There will be a regular collection of used waste disposal bags from classrooms and other areas within the school facility.
- 4. Cleaning/Disinfecting rooms where a student/staff member with suspected COVID- 19 was present will be carried out as soon as practicably possible. Once the room has been cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry, the room can be reused.

4.0: Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

Students should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. The following is an outline how Derryoober National School will deal with a suspected case that may arise in the school setting.

- 1. A designated isolation area will be identified within the school building. The designated isolation area will be behind a closed door and away from other staff and students. The designated isolation area in Derryoober is the Principal's Office.
- 2. If a student displays symptom of COVID-19 while at school the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- 3. There is a procedure in place that the Principal will accompany the individual in the designated isolation, keeping at least 2m away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic person at all times in a dignified manner;
- 4. The isolation room will be fully equipped with a COVID-19 P.P.E pack and a COVID-19 cleaning pack.
- 5. The student will wait in the isolation area until his/her parents/guardians arrive to take them home and who will then call their doctor and continue self- isolation at home; or if symptoms are severe the Principal will phone 999 or 112 and inform the services that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
- 6. The staff member caring for the student will wear a face covering or mask. Advice will be given to the person presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissues provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided.
- 7. The student presenting with symptoms will be facilitated so they can remain in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and facilitate them calling their doctor. Public transport of any kind should not be used. The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces, and objects.

- 8. An assessment of the incident will be carried out and appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved will be carried out as soon as is practically possible.
- 9. The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and student confidentiality are always essential.

5.0: Guidance on Teaching/Learning and School Programmes in 2020/21

Teaching and Learning

As a staff, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning, and we recognise the challenges that Home Learning presented for all families.

Each child will be a different place in relation to his/her learning, and we wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2020/2021 school year.

The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for us, and we ask you to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school.

5.1: Incoming Junior Infants

Derryoober National School recognises that welcoming Junior Infants and supporting their move to primary school is our number one priority. The Infant teacher will help them make this transition as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

On the first day, one parent/guardian wearing a mask can drop their child at the classroom door but not into the classroom. The junior Infants will be collected at the school Door using the 'stop, pick-up and go' system at 12.30pm for the first two weeks only.

6.0: Supporting Students 'at very high risk' to COVID-19

There may be some students for whom the return to school at the end of August/ early September may not be appropriate because the relevant public health guidelines indicate they are at "very high risk". Please contact the school Principal 086 4163722 to report any medical conditions that could place your child in the 'very high risk' category before Thursday 27th August. Regular and ongoing communication between school and home will be essential to support the student's engagement with their learning and their continuous connection with their classmates and school community.

Under the direction of the school principal, your son/daughter' will:

- 1. Liaise with the class teacher regarding curricular content and classwork
- 2. Access relevant learning resources.

- 3. Provide the student with individualised support for his/her learning; this may include devising of an individual support plan for the student in cooperation with the relevant class teacher and SEN team
- 4. Continue to motivate and ensure that your son/daughters wellbeing and capacity to become a self-directed learner is nurtured.
- 5. Support the development of the student's digital competence where necessary.

7.0: Supporting Teaching and Learning in the Home where there is Localised School Closure

In circumstances where there is clear public health advice from HSE Public Health that a school should close, schools will be supported to:

- Make best use of guidance materials which were already provided to all schools during the period of school closures and will be further updated to reflect learning during the emergency period,
- 2. Parents/guardians will be alerted to where students are at in terms of their learning,
- 3. Subject specific lessons will be developed at primary level to be carried out at home by students,
- 4. Parents will be contacted regularly to offer support and feedback,
- 5. There will be a system in place to engage with students daily i.e. Microsoft Teams; and where possible to plan to support students who do not have access to digital technology i.e. Email/ WhatsApp
- 6. The best use of digital technologies will be made to allow continued engagement with students and their learning.

8.0: Communication with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The interaction between the school and the home has never been more vital in supporting students' learning. Establishing and maintaining supportive two-way channels of communication will be critical throughout the coming period. As parents/guardians you will receive clear communication to ensure you understand how you can contribute to your son(s)/daughter(s) learning at this time. Derryoober National School will endeavour to:

- Reassure parents that teachers understand that students will have had different learning experiences during the school closure period
- Reassure parents who are anxious about their son(s)/daughter(s) return to school, through communication and support from the Principal, Class teacher and SEN team.
- Communicating to parents/guardians how you can support your son's/daughter's learning in a remote learning environment, in the event that this arises at any stage in the 2020/21 school year
- Supporting parents/guardians by making a range of digital platforms available to monitor your son(s)/daughter(s) progress in learning.
- 1. Our **school website** <u>www.derryooberschool.ie</u> has a number of drop down menus e.g. return to school, parents, curriculum, policies etc to navigate to keep you informed and up to date on the

- life in Derryoober National School, a busy centre of learning dedicated to students achieving their personal best and becoming their personal best.
- 2. Our Facebook account will keep you up to date on all our good news and student success stories. It is also an important platform to keep up to date with government guidelines as they are issued.

9.0 Student voice

The management and staff of Derryoober National School acknowledge the importance of student voice by empowering students to communicate their own needs, thoughts, and ideas in a safe environment. This is particularly important as the new school year begins. Exploration of the views of students about their experience of school closure, their feelings about returning to school, and what they need to help them in the coming year, will be a central part of our schools' preparation for the year ahead. Promoting student voice in every classroom is important. The Principal and staff at Derryoober National School will help students to identify their particular needs in both the curriculum and school life in a safe and secure environment all the while ensuring that your son(s)/daughter(s) remain at the centre of learning during this time of transition and change.

	End
	$-r_1r_1$
	LIIU

The Board of Management of Derryoober National School ratified this policy on 24.8.20

Signed: Father Kieran O'Rourke

Chairperson BOM

Date: 24.8.20