



**Duleek GNS FAQs regarding the safe return to school last updated: 04/09/20**

• **When should I not send my child to school?**

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

• **What do I do if my child has any of the following symptoms?**

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 can I send my child back to school?**

It's 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

**Please note if your daughter returns to school and you do not follow the above advice, she will be placed in an isolation room and you will be contacted immediately to collect her. This is to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff within the building.**



**This isolation procedure also places our school under massive pressure in terms of staffing and cleaning requirements. If pupils are presenting with symptoms in school, it will not only result in a heightened risk of transmission but will also result in pupils losing valuable teaching time.**

- **When does supervision start?**

**Arrival and dismissal times at both Duleek GNS and BNS are now staggered.**

Walkers, cars and cyclists from 8:50 - 9:00 and buses from 9:00 - 9:20. This is to comply with back to school guidelines as directed by the Department of Education. This change has resulted in staff fulfilling a lot of extra supervision duty before the start of their working day so that pupils from different classes are not mixing on the yard.

Under no circumstances should pupils enter the school premises before this time. Duleek GNS and BNS Boards of Management bear no responsibility for supervising pupils or ensuring that Covid return to school guidelines are adhered to before 8:50.

- **What does my child need to bring on the first day back?**

Your child will need to bring along schoolbag, lunch and stationery, as per guidance note received in June. Please clearly label all stationary, pens and pencils, etc. These items will then remain in school, with their books. We would also recommend you have some stationery at home if we move towards assigning homework in the future.

- **What happens at lunchtime/playtime?**

The breaks have been separated into two groups, with staggered times. Pupils will remain with their class bubble and go to their designated play space. Each yard has been divided up into sections so they will not be mixing with other class bubbles. They will be able to chat to their friends from other classes at a safe distance.

- **Are all children expected to socially distance?**

Every effort will be made to encourage all pupils to abide by the recommended distance. However, this will not always be possible, especially with the younger pupils and those with additional needs. A common sense approach will be taken.

- **What happens if my child displays symptoms of Covid 19?**

Please see response plan (available on website) for details of this on page 12. This document can be accessed in the policy section of our school website.

- **Will the teachers be wearing masks?**

All school staff will be wearing masks and/or visors if they cannot maintain a 2metre distance from the pupils.

- **What about access to SNA support?**

If your child has been sanctioned access to SNA support, she will receive this support. It is important to remember that the amount of support will vary depending on the needs of each child.



- **Does my child have to wear a uniform?**  
Yes, where possible. It is also recommended that children wear different clothes every day. However, there will be no issue with wearing a plain tracksuit in order to arrive to school each day in fresh clothes. We do not want to put parents under pressure to have a washed full uniform every day or spend additional money on extra uniforms.
- **Does my daughter have to wear a mask to school?**  
The wearing of masks is optional. At the moment, the guidelines do not recommend them for pupils under the age of 13. However, pupils are welcome to wear them if they feel more comfortable. They are a requirement on the buses.
- **Does my child need to bring hand sanitizer to school?**  
No, the school has been fitted with hand sanitizing stations. If your daughter would rather use her own hand sanitizer they are welcome to do so although they must be kept in their school bag and only used when directed to from a member of staff who is supervising.
- **Do I need to put lunch boxes in a separate bag?**  
Our advice is to wash all items relating to lunch such as boxes, beakers, cutlery etc. daily. Lunch boxes do not need to be placed in a separate plastic bag.
- **Will my child be getting homework?**  
For the month of September, we will not be allocating homework. All school books will be left in the classroom. The situation will then be reviewed. If you would like to work with your daughter at home we would encourage you to read with her or spend time discussing their day.
- **If my child forgets something for school, can I drop it up to the school?**  
We are encouraging parents to visit the school as little as possible. If the item is urgently needed then yes you may drop it to the office. There will be a table in the porch for you to place the item and it will be brought to your child. Please label clearly, with child's name and class.
- **Can I send a note to the class teacher?**  
If you need to contact the class teacher during the first week, please contact the office at [duleekgirls2009@gmail.com](mailto:duleekgirls2009@gmail.com). An alternative method of communicating with your daughter's class teacher will be used after the first week and this will be communicated to you.
- **What time does supervision start?**  
Supervision starts at 8.50 when the first arrivals are accepted. Please note there will be no supervision before this time.