

Holy Trinity College Covid-19: Return to School: **Parent Responsibilities**

Being safe and engaging in effective learning while at home

Distance Learning has many benefits which include your child developing digital skills, becoming an independent learner and understanding more about their preferred style of learning. With these benefits, also come responsibilities for you and your son/daughter. Some of these are listed below.

- Familiarise yourself with the revised Acceptable Use Policy and the appendices to the Promoting Positive Behaviour for Learning and Child Protection Policy. These policies detail our expectations and inform our practice.
- Help your child to establish a daily routine. Assist them in creating a distraction free, quiet environment to work in. Encourage an early start and model, as far as possible, their day on the school day.
- Ask your son/daughter to check their C2k emails and log onto Google Classroom as per teacher's instructions. Encourage them to complete all assigned tasks in the recommended time-frame.
- Some teachers may hold a virtual lesson. Give permission for your child to participate in this online engagement. Insist on a suitable dress code, punctuality and readiness for these meetings.
- Encourage your child to be kind and respectful online—just as they would in real lessons. This helps to create a safer internet for everyone.
- Be patient: Be aware that teachers are involved in a combination of face to face and distance learning and will communicate with your child when available to address queries and give feedback. Google Classroom prevents teachers from scheduling feedback during school hours. Be aware that your child may receive a notification that a teacher has marked and returned work after the school day.
- Encourage your child to stay safe when online and ask them regularly if they have any concerns when online.
- Contact the school if you notice your child is lacking motivation or becoming overwhelmed with completing tasks.
- Follow the guidance on Pupil Attendance on Pages 60-62 of NI Re-Opening schools Guidance Version 2 <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/NorthernIrelandReOpeningSchoolsGuidanceNewSchoolDayVersion213August2020.pdf> and the advice of the Public Health Agency regarding pupils who are clinically vulnerable/living with someone who is clinically vulnerable or if your child is shielding/living with someone who is shielding.

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These guidelines will remain in place until COVID-19 is no longer seen as a threat by the Government. They aim to ensure the well-being and safety of all members of our school community

- Remain calm. Try not to have too many worried conversations in front of your children. Limit exposure to the news and especially social media. This is more likely to make you and your children feel worried and unsafe. There is also a lot of unhelpful speculation, sparse facts and much anxiety and distress. Reassure them that school has plans in place to keep all in our community safe and well.
- Allow your child to talk about their feelings and voice their worries about returning to school. These are strange times and their minds and imaginations may run away with themselves. Listen, validate (“it’s completely normal to feel like that at the moment”) and reassure them, that while in school, staff are there to make sure they are safe.
- Talk to your children and explain that school may be different when they return in September. The changes like the one way system, Key Stage 3 pupils remaining in assigned classrooms for all subjects, respecting social distancing and staggered start and finishing times are all in place to keep them safe.
- **Do not send your child to school if he/she is displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Contact your GP and follow medical advice.**
- Equip your child with a pencil case with pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler, colouring pencils and glue (pritt stick). Teachers may also recommend subject specific resources. To reduce contamination, staff will not lend this equipment or permit the sharing of materials with others.
- Ensure that your child has washed their hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the house. Encourage good infection control practices, e.g. thorough hand-washing at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of the infection.
- Provide lunch. To reduce pressure on the canteen services, consider, where possible providing your child with a healthy break and lunch.
- Talk to your child’s form teacher if you require some support with his/her emotional well-being. Alert us if your child has experienced trauma, loss or hardship during school closure.
- Ensure that we have your correct contact details should the school need to communicate with you during the school day. Only essential visits should be made to the school and all appointments should be pre-arranged and take place after 3.10pm.
- Familiarise yourself with the Appendix to the Promoting Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy COVID-19 and discuss with your child the rationale behind this additional amendment. Ensure your child is fully aware of the sanctions relating to the breaking of any of the new guidelines in place to keep everyone safe in school.