



Coláiste Chú Chulainn Roll No. 76195U

Health and Safety Control of COVID-19 Policy for students

Adopted: 21st September 2020

Review due: September 2021



Success for All

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Introduction

Coláiste Chú Chulainn is a multi-denominational and co-educational post-primary school under the patronage of Louth and Meath Education and Training Board. As such, it operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education and Skills and follows the curricular programmes prescribed.

This policy was prepared in order to ensure clarity, consistency and cohesion in delivering a safe school environment for all.



Fís na Scoile

Our school's Vision Statement is built on the the three strands of Vision, Values & Behaviours as adopted by our Board of Management. This statement is central to all plans, policies and routines in school.

<i>Vision</i>	Coláiste Chú Chulainn - Success for All.
<i>Values</i>	We Plan for Success for Every Student We Model Success in Our Practice We Celebrate Success We are Partners for Success in Our Community We Deliver Success for Students, Families and Community
<i>Behaviours</i>	We Plan for Success for Every Student We set and share learning intentions in our work. We differentiate in our lessons. We give formative feedback to our students on their work. We use self and peer assessment in our lessons. We engage all students in school life. We Model Success in Our Practice We implement LMETB and Coláiste Chú Chulainn policies in all of our work. We are prepared for our work as students and staff. We reflect on our professional practice and strive for improvements where identified. We share resources, knowledge and experience. We Celebrate Success We praise our students for their efforts and achievements. We hold Awards Events. We share our stories at every opportunity. We include the whole community in our celebrations. We are Partners for Success in Our Community. We collaborate with local and national enterprises. We are active in community activities. We invite guests to work with us in our learning. We are inclusive of everybody. We Deliver Success for Students, Families and Our Community Our students achieve the best possible grades. Our students complete their 2nd Level education in Coláiste Chú Chulainn. Our students progress to Higher & Further Education or employment. Our students have excellent attendance.

Aim

Under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Board of Management of Coláiste Chú Chulainn and LMETB as employer is required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all employees of the school. The employer is further required to manage and conduct the school in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that individuals at the place of work who are not employees, such as students, parents/guardians, visitors to the school, are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare.

Key Principles

This policy is influenced by the need to minimise the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community and to prevent its spread. Although it is acknowledged that no single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, adherence to this policy will contribute to the reduction of that risk of transmission.

In accordance with this policy students are expected to comply with the standards of behaviour set out in this policy or as directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 control measures are consistent with current advice from the HSE, the Health and Safety Authority, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, as such, may be subject to change. Students and parents/guardians will be notified of any changes to the control measures.

Students are expected to comply with all directions from school staff in relation to the school's COVID-19 control measures. Any failure or refusal to comply with this policy or to follow instructions of school staff should be dealt with in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians are required to supply the school with a phone number/s of available person/s who can be contacted at all times and who will be available to collect a student from the school should the need arise.

Considerations

Schools are also reminded of the need to support the implementation of this policy by:

1. Focussing on creating a positive and safe environment for teaching and learning in the particular context of COVID-19
2. Ensuring that all students are made aware of the public health requirements as they relate to schools in a COVID-19 context and the particular context of the students' own school
3. Encouraging students to take personal responsibility for their actions and create and nurture a positive climate that reinforces good behaviour

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to symptoms of cold or flu. The most common symptoms are:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath
- loss of sense of smell or taste

More information regarding the most up-to-date signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is available on the HSE website, <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>.

Standards of Behaviour expected of students to help prevent the introduction or spread of COVID 19 in the school

Students are expected to comply with any control measures directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to:

- Maintaining a social-distance of at least 1 metre and where possible, 2 metres, from other students and staff;
Wearing a face covering (applicable at post-primary level). All students at post-primary level are required to wear a face covering subject to a limited number of exceptions set out in relevant Department of Education guidance. Face coverings must not contain any Slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.
- Performing hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser on entering the school.
- Repeating hand-hygiene at regular intervals throughout the school day and when directed by school staff;
- Maintaining good respiratory-hygiene. In this regard students should:
 - cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing/sneezing and dispose of used tissue in waste bin and perform hand hygiene
 - cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) rather than into the hand, if no tissues are available.
 - keep contaminated hands away from the eyes and nose
 - carry out hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials
 - not spit or deliberately cough or sneeze at or towards any other person in the school
- not sharing materials or stationery, such as pens, calculators, rulers, *etc.* with other students;
- not attending school for 14 days after returning from travel out of the country in line with Government guidelines for travel;
- not attending school if displaying COVID-19 like symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- not attending school where tested positive for COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice

- not attending school if identified by the HSE as a person who has been in contact with another person who has contracted COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice;
- not attending school if a member of the student's household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- telling a teacher or other member of staff where a student feels unwell at school. In that regard – the student will require to be collected from the school as soon as possible by a parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent/guardian for such purpose. Parents must ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details so that they can be contacted by the school if required.
- complying with any other such directions as advised by the DES and/or HSE and communicated to the school community.

Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour

- Failure by a student to comply with the standards of behaviour expected to help prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 will constitute a breach of the Code of Behaviour of Coláiste Chú Chlainn and s/he may be subject to sanction up to and including suspension or permanent exclusion.
- Any actions or sanctions taken in respect of alleged breaches of the code of behaviour will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the school's code of behaviour, the requirements of the EWS Guidelines on Developing a Code of Behaviour and relevant requirements of the Education and Welfare Act 2000. Sanctions will be proportionate to the nature, seriousness and context of the behaviour.
- A student engaging in aggressive, threatening or unacceptable behaviour that creates or increases the risk of COVID-19 infection for staff, other students or visitors to the school may be removed from class and, if necessary, from the school premises with immediate effect, pending any further action to be taken in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

Clarification on the use of face coverings in Post Primary schools

Wearing a face covering or mask does not negate the need to stay at home if symptomatic.

Wearing of face coverings – a requirement

Staff and students, at post-primary level, are required to wear a face covering. The exemptions to this are set out below.

Cloth face coverings

Cloth face coverings are recommended for staff and students. Cloth face coverings act as a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice. Cloth face coverings are therefore intended to prevent transmission of the virus from the wearer (who may not know that they are infected) to those with whom they come into close contact.

Face coverings must not contain any slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.

Visors

Cloth face coverings are more effective than visors. In the limited circumstances where a cloth face covering cannot be worn clear visors must be considered. The alternate use of a clear visor can also be considered when a staff member is interacting with students with hearing difficulties or learning difficulties.

Exemptions

A medical certificate to certify that a person falls into a category listed below must be provided to the school by, or on behalf of, any person (staff or student) who claims that they are covered by the exemptions below:

- any person with difficulty breathing who cannot wear a cloth face covering or a visor
- any person who is unable to remove the cloth face-covering or visor without assistance
- any person who has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the cloth face covering or visor, for example persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.

In circumstances where a medical certificate is not provided that person (staff or student) will be refused entry to the school.

Directions for effective use of face coverings

- Information should be provided by schools on the proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings. Advice on how to use face coverings properly can be found [here](#).

- All staff and students should be reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash or sanitise their hands (using hand sanitiser) before putting on and after taking off the face covering.
- All staff (and students, where applicable), should be aware that they should wash or sanitise hands (using a hand sanitiser) before and after helping a student put on or adjust a face covering.
- Face coverings should be stored in a designated space, for example, in an individually labelled container or bag.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.
- Face coverings should not be worn if they are wet. A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe.

Whilst staff and students may wish to utilise their own face covering on a day-to-day basis, schools should have a stock of additional disposable or multi-use face coverings (or if appropriate, visors) for staff and students in case a back-up face covering is needed during the day or where required on an ongoing basis.

Use of medical grade face coverings

Schools should consider the specific circumstances where the use of medical face masks (to EU Standard EN 14683) may be more appropriate for staff as part of their risk assessment for employees returning to work (for example where staff by necessity need to be in close and continued proximity with students with intimate care needs such as SNAs).

Students using school transport

All students on the post primary transport scheme are required to wear face coverings subject to the exemptions above.

Date of Ratification

21st September 2020

Date for Review

September 2021

BOM Ratification

Date Ratified by the Board of Management:	21 st September 2020
Proposed By:	Ciarán Fisher
Seconded By:	Yvonne Mefor
Signed:	 (Chairperson, BOM)
Scheduled Date for Review of the Policy:	September 2021

LMETB Ratification/Resolution of the ETB Board

<i>Date of Resolution of ETB Board</i>	
<i>Signed</i>	<i>(Chairperson)</i>