



Coláiste Cholmcille
College Street
Ballyshannon
Co. Donegal

Telephone: 071 9858288

Fax: 071 9851369

School Roll No: 91506V

info@ccbs.ie

20 Aug 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and enjoying the summer holidays.

The Department of Education and Skills issued guidelines to schools which will enable us to re-open from 27th August 2021.

We are currently in the process of familiarising ourselves with these guidelines and getting the school ready for the return of pupils and staff.

The following information/reminders may prove useful:

Covid-19 Update:

School will open to students as normal starting with 1st years on Friday 27th August.

Sanitise stations are available in every room and along the corridors. Please remember to social distance and follow Public Health guidelines at all times.

2021/2022 Return to School Dates (Full Days 08:50am-3:55pm, Wednesday 08:50am-1pm)

Thursday 26th August – Staff Day

Friday 27th August – 1st Year

Monday 30th August – 6th Year & LCA2

Tuesday 31st August – 3rd Year

Wednesday 1st September – 2nd Year, 5th Year & LCA1

Thursday 2nd September – TY

Principal
Cora Fagan

Deputy Principal
Darren McGuinness

On return to school your son/daughter will receive an induction and will continue to attend for full days every day after that.

First Years: On your first day (Friday 27th Aug) please bring your school bag, copy book, pencil case and a packed lunch or the canteen will be available. On the same day you will receive your text books and the New Beginnings Workbook. Please bring a plastic lidded container for under the desk to hold text books.

Base Classrooms at Junior Cycle: Students at Junior Cycle are going to be based in the same room for most of their classes as a way of limiting movement and contact throughout the building. They will still move for practical subjects where they need to access equipment for that subject. Base classrooms will be open first thing every morning and students must go directly there upon entering the building and take their assigned seat. Seating has been arranged to allow for social distance of 1 metre.

Junior students will also have the designated toilet block in this area.

Any room with its own external exit door will facilitate exit when it is permitted and always under teacher observation.

Tutor classrooms at Senior Cycle: Senior Cycle Students will have a tutor room available for them every morning and they will need to go directly there upon entering the building and take their assigned seat.

Lockers: Lockers will not be available this year due to restrictions around social distancing. Students in Junior Cycle will have their own base room for most subjects, reducing their movement around the school and therefore reducing the need for lockers. We would encourage students to bring only the books and equipment they require for that day. It is advisable that a plastic storage box be used to hold books under the desk each evening as the desks must be deep cleaned. Otherwise all books and materials must be brought home each evening.

One Hour Classes: All classes are one hour long, again the purpose is to reduce movement around the building during the school day. There will be no change to the start or finish times of the day.

Face Coverings: Government advice is that all staff and students, unless they fall into a specific grouping, please see Covid Response Plan on www.ccbs.ie, are required to wear a face covering in school. Students must have clean face coverings on every day. Students are expected to provide their own face coverings.

Specific Entrances and exits: In order to reduce traffic in the building year groups will be allocated doors to use in the mornings and afternoons.

- 1st Year and 2nd Year will use the student entrance opposite the Mercy Hall

- 3rd Year and TY will use the entrance into the assembly area from the New Hall side of the building
- 5th and 6th Year will use the entrance to the practical area beside the photocopy room on the New Hall side of the building.
- Staff and visitors will use the Main Entrance, but visitors will be strictly by appointment only.

One Way System: A one-way system will be in operation where it allows for this to happen and additional barriers are being prepared for the corridors to separate traffic from left to right, where necessary.

Ventilation: The Department has published guidance setting out the practical steps for good ventilation in accordance with public health advice '*Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools*' The guidance sets out an overall approach for schools that windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. The guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather. The Department has also published guidance on how these practical steps measures can be supplemented and enhanced by the use of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) monitors.

Leaving site: No one will have permission to leave site during morning break. During lunch 1st and 2nd Year must remain in school. They can use the school canteen or bring a packed lunch. Again, the need to reduce large groups of students congregating in town is necessary.

Uniform: We will be operating our normal uniform policy. The Coláiste Cholmcille school uniform is available from Slevin's and Herron's Boutique Ballyshannon. The uniform consists of a blue crested sweater, school skirt/black trousers (of which two are advised), white shirt and optional school tie. Students must wear sensible black or brown shoes. No stripes, designs, white or coloured soles or white laces are permitted.

PE Uniform: The new PE uniform is available to purchase on the below link until 04th September 2021.

<https://oreillysofficial.com/product-category/colaiste-cholmcille-ballyshannon/>

Fleece: The official school fleece with crest will be available to buy in Slevin's, Ballyshannon. (This is the only fleece allowed to be worn in class)

School Coat: Students may only wear the official school crested coat as an alternative/in addition to the school fleece. School coat will be available in Slevin's, Ballyshannon.

Canteen: The school canteen offers a range of hot food and snacks at morning break and lunchtime.

School App: Our new school app is currently under production. The company rolling this out, Unique Publishing will be in touch with you via text over the coming days. All information pertaining to your child and our school can be easily accessed on the new app and we encourage you to download and register as soon as contacted.

New Outdoor Classrooms/recreation areas: We have invested in new outdoor spaces over the summer, benches are on route. These will be a great addition to our school community. The outdoor areas can be used as outdoor classrooms, weather permitting and as recreational areas at lunch time. We hope that all our students and staff enjoy using them.

Book Rental: Coláiste Cholmcille operates a Book Rental Scheme. All the required books are supplied but must be well cared for by the students. Copies, pens, etc. are not included in the Book Scheme.

One student	€190	Fees and Book Rental
Two students	€350	Fees and Book Rental
Three students	€495	Fees and Book Rental
More than Three	€495	Extra Book Rental only at €100 per additional student
LCA	€85	LCA: fees only €85
TY	€125	

Payments: These payments cover/subsidise a range of services and activities including, photocopying, materials for practical subjects, house exams, mock exams, retreats, school library services and the Coláiste Cholmcille Journal.

School payments can be paid using the school app when it is available.

Parents' Association: Each year our Parents' Association organise a series of activities, events and publications to support the parents/guardians and students of Coláiste Cholmcille. All parents/guardians are automatically members of the Association and a voluntary contribution to the Association of €15 per family, this can be paid when the school app is available.

Pupil Insurance: Pupil Insurance – 24 Hour cover – €10.00 again paid using the App.

You can read our full Covid Response Plan, Covid Policy and all other Policies on our web site www.cbbs.ie and via our school App once in operation.

Further Information for Parents and Students, please see below links:

Please see below the link to the inspectorate's report on 'Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling during Covid' within Coláiste Cholmcille:

https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/supporting-the-safe-provision-of-schooling-ssps/91506V_Supporting%20the%20Safe%20Provision%20of%20Schooling_25433_20210319.pdf

Video advice for parents and students at different levels

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

Posters/graphics advice for parents

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

Multilingual advice for parents

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0cf46-resources-and-materials-for-parentsguardians-and-for-students-on-returning-to-school-multi-lingual/>

NB: If your child has developed any **medical problems** or requires special medication it is important to notify the school prior to the beginning of the school year.

I hope you and your families enjoy the rest of the summer.

Yours sincerely,

Cora Fagan

Principal.