

28/08/2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back into our schools. This has obviously been a very trying and worrying time for both you and your children but we can assure you that we have done everything in our power to minimise any risks of spread of the Covid 19 virus in our schools by following the HSE guidelines.

HSE guidelines continue to be updated on a regular basis. The most recent information we have at hand, published 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020, deals with the procedures we must follow in dealing with any suspected Covid 19 cases. In the first instance the HSE has advised parents not to send their children to school if they have a fever, a cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste. The following is taken from HSE advice published in the above document to schools. For more information please see [www.gov.ie/backtoschool](http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool)

*‘If a child displays symptoms which **may** be consistent with Covid – 19, the school should contact their parent or guardian and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible. The child should be cared for appropriately by a staff member whilst they are waiting to go home.’*

*‘At this stage, **no further action** by the school is required.’*

*‘In particular, schools are asked to note that they should **not** inform other parents or staff members that a pupil or staff member has gone home due to their symptoms. Other pupils or staff do **not** need to be removed from class, including siblings, or other household members.’*

At all times the health and safety and well-being of your children continues to remain our number one priority. Please be assured that all individual suspected cases will be treated with the utmost discretion and care. The HSE have advised that they will manage all contact tracing. We look forward to working closely with our school community; parents/guardians, staff, pupils and management, to make the re-opening of our schools a success.

We will continue to keep you informed via our school e mails and websites. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Best wishes for the new school year.

Feargal Brougham and Elaine Mc Nulty.

(Principals of St. Paul’s SNS and JNS)