



Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

COVID 19: Physical Distancing

Guidance and Checklist – Physical distancing

In implementing the public health advice to maintain physical distancing in the classroom, staff at Brannoxtown CNS have re-configured class spaces to maximise physical distancing. The Principal, Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick and staff have consulted a range of guidance/documentation by the Department to assist schools with reopening. This includes [classroom drawings](#) to demonstrate how physical distancing can be achieved. The following checklist of potential actions has been completed by the Principal to document this process for Brannoxtown CNS. The process/checklist recognises that schools themselves are best placed to decide on the appropriate configuration for their school given that each school setting is different in terms of (i) location; (ii) physical layout; (iii) available space within the school; (iv) pupil numbers; (v) class configuration and (vi) ease of potential access to space outside the school.

Table 1. Reconfigure class spaces to maximize physical distancing

Measure	BCNS
Unnecessary cabinets, furniture etc. have been removed to maximise classroom space.	Yes
A central storage area has been identified in the schools for teacher resources which can help maximise the space available within the classroom.	Yes
Desks and chairs in classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distancing as best as possible.	Yes
Our school is a Bubble. The organisation of Pods within the bubble is intended to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people.	Yes
Four Pods have been identified within the Brannoxtown CNS Bubble for: Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Middle Classes (1 st to 3 rd) and Senior Classes (4 th to 6 th). The four pods at our school are <u>an additional measure</u> . Pods are as small as possible and as is reasonably practical. From 2 nd Class onwards, one metre distance will be maintained between Pods and <u>when possible</u> , between individuals within the Pod.	Yes

Table 2. Utilise and reconfigure all available spaces in order to maximise physical distancing

Measure	BCNS
At Brannoxtown CNS, all four classrooms in the current building are the same size. Classes from 3rd Class upward will maintain a distance of 1 metre in the classroom. This is not a prerequisite for children in the first four primary years.	Yes

A review of all school classrooms and areas has maximised opportunities within the footprint of the school building for achieving a full return to school, the overall national priority.	Yes
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I, Sarah FitzPatrick, declare that the steps outlined above have been implemented at Brannoxtown CNS.

Signed: 

Dr. Rory O' Toole
Director of Schools, KWETB

Date: 25th August, 2020

Signed: 

Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick
Principal

Date: 25th August, 2020