



Notes for Parents

School Attendance

- Please be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19: high temperature; cough; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties; loss of smell, of taste, or distortion of taste.
- In line with public health advice, parents **MUST NOT** send a child to school if exhibiting any of these symptoms.
- Due to this, it is probable that individual student absences will increase significantly this year. For this reason it is important that students do not miss time unnecessarily for other reasons. Please make all appointments for outside school hours where possible.

Children Who Should Not Attend School

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school:

- Children who have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Children who have a suspected case of COVID-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of COVID-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days (as per current public health advice)
- Children who are unwell

If your daughter has been advised to stay off school, please notify us and we will put in place work so that she can keep up.

The Night Before School

- Please ensure your daughter has her lunch, a bottle of water, and whatever classroom resources she needs (e.g. pens, rulers, calculators etc.). This year due to COVID-19, there will be no school canteen, water dispensers, and students cannot share their materials.

Dropping and Collecting from School

- It is important that we reduce congestion at the front of the school to ensure social distancing.
- Please do not drive up to the main entrance of the school to drop off your daughter in the mornings, let her out of the car a short distance away from the school.
- Likewise, after school, if you are collecting her by car, arrange a meeting point a short distance from the school, NOT at the front entrance.
- Please see the enclosed leaflet about Park & Stride being operated by Galway City Council.

Visiting the School

- Entry by visitors (including parents) to school building must be by prior arrangement. Unscheduled appointments are not permitted. Schools are required to minimise the number of visitors to schools.
- If you have an appointment in the school, please be sure to bring mask with you.
- We must maintain a 2-metre distance at all times between staff and visitors

Reassure Your Daughters

- There is no doubt that the past number of months has been challenging for children. It is good that they are returning to school.
- While the organisation of school will, for the time being be different to before, our students will be well able to cope with it and there is no need to be stressed or anxious about it.
- The school will do its utmost to keep everyone safe and the teachers will work with the girls to catch up on work missed at the end of last year.
- If you yourself are worried about your daughter returning to school, please do not show this to her as she will pick up on your stress.

Important Safety Practices

- Please teach and model good hygiene practices for your daughter (wash hands frequently - with soap, for 20 seconds; cough/sneeze into elbow or tissue; dispose of tissue immediately after use and wash hands; practise using sanitiser).
- Practise and encourage physical distancing.
- Impress upon your children the importance of following guidelines, routines and health and safety practices at school, in order to help protect their health and that of everyone in the school community.

If a Student Shows Symptoms While in School

If a student shows symptoms of COVID-19 while in school, we will follow the Department of Education & Skills guidelines i.e.

- The student will be brought to an isolation room beside the Principals' office to ensure distance from other students and staff.
- Parents will be contacted immediately. It is vital that we have the correct telephone number for parents. If you are in doubt about this, please email your correct number to office@taylorshill.ie.
- Students must be collected by a parent/guardian or other authorised adult. We cannot allow students to travel home on public transport. Parents must have arrangements in place to collect a child as quickly as possible in the event of a call from school.
- Parents will be told that they must contact the students' GP to arrange for a COVID-19 test.
- The student must self-isolate at home pending test results.
- If the student is too unwell to travel home, the school will contact 999 or 112 to seek advice and an ambulance if needed.
- Parents should inform the school of the result of the students' COVID-19 test.