

Saint Fiachra's Senior National School

Board of Management

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I hope that this finds you all well in these very uncertain times. We are hugely looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on August 31st and are very busy with our preparations for re-opening the schools in line with current guidance and recommendations. Re-opening our schools is dependent on the co-operation of all of us who make up the school community including the Board of Management, school leadership, staff, Parents' Council, parents and most importantly of all, the pupils themselves. We are all in this together and are completely reliant on each other to ensure the successful opening of the school. Once we open successfully, our mission then is to keep the schools open and to keep everyone safe.

A shared, collaborative approach to the tasks ahead is the key to protecting all of us against the spread of the virus. Our mission is to provide a rich and progressive teaching and learning experience for the children in a safe environment, and in doing so, to ensure that the students most impacted by the school closure are enabled to reconnect with and progress in their learning. This creates a unique challenge to us all.

We have been working extensively on our plan for the re-opening of the school for some weeks now and are guided by the Department of Education publication 'Covid-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable re-opening of Primary and Special Schools'. (See www.education.gov.ie) The document includes a series of detailed plans and directives to be implemented to maximise the continuing health of all who use and access the school. We will inform you of the details of how we are going to implement the plan prior to our opening.


The school Board of Management and the staff of St. Fiachra's Schools are acutely aware of our duty of care to the school community.

We have never faced a challenge of this magnitude before and I have no doubt that we can meet the challenge by working together, as one.

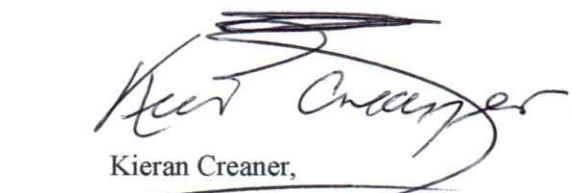
We are greatly looking forward to welcoming you all back to school and we will do everything we can to ensure that it will be an enjoyable and safe experience for all.

We will be in touch in due course with a more comprehensive outline of the measures we will have in place.

Best wishes,


Tom Gleeson,

Chairperson of the Board


Kieran Creaner,
Principal

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>