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# St. Michael's Community College

## April 2021 – Returning to School after Easter Break

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### Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope everyone enjoyed a break from Remote Learning over Easter. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to the school on Monday, 12 April 2021. We thank all students and teachers for their engagement in Remote Learning since Christmas. We deeply appreciate the support of parents and guardians during this difficult time.

### Recent Inspection

We have successfully passed school inspection for Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling. We are constantly monitoring, supervising and responding in accordance with our COVID 19 response plan. We are very grateful to the staff members who are responsible for implementing all the measures required. We also appreciate the manner in which students and staff have supported the plan; everyone is united in protecting themselves and others so that we can keep our staff and students in school.

### Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration

All members of the school community, staff and students, are all required to make a declaration that we are, to the *best of our knowledge*, symptom free. We need your cooperation in the completion of a 'Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration' as recommended by the HSE for your child/children. You may complete this form simply via your smartphone or tablet/laptop/computer. The link will be sent you via text message. Over 18s have the right to complete their own forms.

### COVID-19 Response Plan

Please note the contents of the school's COVID response plan on this website. In particular please note the following:

### Key Messages for all Stakeholders (students, staff and parents/guardians)

1. Everyone needs to play his/her part to minimise the risk of COVID-19 for staff, students, families and the wider community while recognising the importance of education for the health and wellbeing of students and society as a whole.
2. Everyone must make every effort to minimise the risk of infection.
3. Everyone needs to reduce the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 within the school itself if an outbreak in the school is detected.

### Knowing the Symptoms of COVID-19

- high temperature

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- cough
  - shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
  - loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

*If your child/children complains of any of these symptoms, please keep your child/children at home and call your GP without delay.*

### **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing will continue to be applied in as far as is possible and in a practical way to facilitate the learning environment. We have made all efforts to achieve this increased separation by utilising and reconfiguring all available space in the school.

### **Coming to and from school**

All schools are encouraging students to walk or cycle to school if they can do so. Parents/guardians are required to observe social distancing in relation to any contact with the school. This includes maintaining a two metre distance to other families when dropping off or collecting their children from the school and any contact with the school. All visits to the school are required to be made in advance through the school office.

When students arrive at school, they must sanitise their hands and they proceed directly to their base classroom as they have done in term one. Students should not congregate in groups close to one another. They must also sanitise their hands exiting the building. “Bring nothing in and bring nothing home”

### **Face Masks**

We are very grateful to students and their parents/guardians for supporting the essential requirement to wear face masks in our school.

Face coverings must not contain any slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.

### **Public Health Messages**

It is critical for a safe school environment that

- staff, students and families are aware not to attend school if they have any symptoms of Covid-19 infection.
- no-one should be attending school if they have any household member who has signs or symptoms of Covid-19; they should be restricting their movements until it is clear whether the household member has Covid-19 infection or not.
- staff and children need to restrict their movements and undergo testing if they have been told by their doctor / HSE services that they are a close contact of a case of Covid-19; they should not be attending school.

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### **Contacting / Visiting the school**

Access to the school by parents and guardians will be far more restricted than ever before while we live through the current pandemic. The advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) makes it clear that schools must restrict access to the campus outside of students and staff.

### **Changes to the Code of Behaviour Policy during Covid-19**

In light of the need for students to be more mindful of attending school during the current Covid-19 climate, an amendment to the Code of Behaviour Policy is required so that students will be aware of specific rules on their return to school. Our guiding principle when making any changes or adjustments to this policy is to be able to keep all of our students, families and staff safe.

### **How to prepare for the return to school - how can parents/guardians help?**

As students have missed several months of life at school, it is totally understandable that it will take some time to adjust to returning to school-life.

There is an excellent range of supports available on [www.loveparenting.ie](http://www.loveparenting.ie) specifically for parents to help with this. This site has lots of useful information on a wide range of parenting issues.

### **Current First Year Students**

Current first year have had a very short period of time in the physical school building and it may feel like starting over again. Step Up To Secondary School is a fantastic resource developed by Planet Youth and their partners. It has a number of resource pages for parents and students. Each resource page has a number of topics to browse through. Some topics have additional information such as advice, videos or extra research. You can access this site here - [www.stepup.ie](http://www.stepup.ie)

### **Contacting the School**

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school via this email address [stmichaels@kilmihilcc.com](mailto:stmichaels@kilmihilcc.com) or at 065 9050021 during school hours, and we will do all we can to address your query as soon as possible

We are looking forward to our students returning and the school atmosphere becoming vibrant and enthusiastic once more!

Yours sincerely

Helena Keane  
Principal

Damian Duggan  
Deputy Principal