

Contingency plan for Teaching & Learning in the event of another school closure

General guidelines as per Roadmap to Reopening:

As a contingency for any such reoccurrence of closures, whether localised or on a bigger scale, to ensure compliance with any public health restrictions, it is vital that schools are prepared. The Department is updating its *Continuity of Schooling Guidance* documents to support schools in responding in an agile way in the event of localised school closure. Specifically, schools will be provided with guidance and support to put in place arrangements to facilitate communication with and between staff, between staff and learners and to facilitate development of online approaches to remote and blended learning in the event that such is required.

In circumstances where there is clear public health advice from HSE Public Health that a school should close, schools will be supported to:

- Make best use of guidance materials which were already provided to all schools during the period of school closures and will be further updated to reflect learning during the emergency period;
- Alert parents/guardians to where pupils are at in their learning;
- Develop lesson activities to be carried out at home;
- Contact parents regularly to offer support and feedback;
- Have a system in place to engage with pupils regularly;
- Make best use of digital technologies to allow continued engagement with pupils and their learning;

Contingency plan specific to Dromclough NS:

1. Parents will be advised in advance re home learning logistics i.e. to prepare home learning space & ensure pupils have access to broadband & laptops; to put a timetable for home learning in place for the pupils;
2. All pupils must engage with work provided;
3. Pupils will take home all school books & copies and other items such as coats, boots, etc. on the day the shutdown is called;
4. We will continue the use of Seesaw to assign work to pupils & receive it back for correction.
5. Instructions and timelines for the return of work through Seesaw will be identified;
6. During a future lockdown class teachers will use Seesaw to communicate with pupils three times weekly as before;
7. School work to be done at home will be of a variety that will not demand excessive amounts of time for correction;
8. Consideration will be given to using Zoom for some classes for certain subjects.
9. SET teachers will consider correspondence by email & phone call also to SEN pupils, as this appeared to be the most effective for these pupils;
10. SNAs will assist with work being allocated to some pupils and will establish a weekly correspondence with their pupil;
11. All staff, including support team, will prioritise the well-being of the pupils & the whole school community.