



Pobalscoil Ghort Inse Guaire

Gort Community School

GORT, COUNTY GALWAY, H91C9K1

Principal: **Brian Crossan** M.Tech, B.Tech(Ed), G.Dip(Ed)

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25th August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

I would like to thank all parents/guardians for their support to the school in the past, and thank everyone in advance for their continued support to their children's education over the course of the forthcoming academic year. Your support for the school and your son/daughter's education has never been more important.

I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school. Some students will be entering the school for the first time with 185 1st year students starting with us on the 1st of September. Others will know the school well from their time spent with us over the past few years.

We will have over 920 pupils in the school this year.

We are phasing back our students starting with 1st years on Wednesday the 1st of September. The start-up schedule was sent to all parents/guardians in June and is available on our school website www.gortcs.com and on our school facebook page.

Gort community School will have COVID procedures in place. ([See here](#))

1. Foot pedal Sanitisers are located at all three main entrances to the school.
2. Hand Sanitisers are available in every classroom and must be used upon exit by all students. Desk sanitiser & paper must also be used before leaving the classroom.
3. All classrooms in GCS have undergone a deep cleaning regime in preparation for the return of staff and students for 2020/2021.
4. We have employed additional cleaning staff and cleaning will be rostered during the school day as well as after school.
5. Classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise social distancing.
6. Some furniture and fittings have been removed. All double tables have been removed from the school.
7. Covid-19 Signage is prominently displayed throughout the school.
8. Visitors and Parents may only call to school on essential business and by appointment only. Callers to the school must be kept to an absolute minimum.

9. Covid-19 protocol GCS Code of Good School regarding sanitiser, face masks, sign in/out etc.. must be strictly observed at all times. Our Code of Good School Behaviour will apply to any student who does not comply with the school Covid-19 Policy. The support of Parents & students is essential in our efforts to safeguard the safety of our students and the entire school community.

10. Lockers will be allocated to 1st, 3rd and 6th year students and this will be reviewed for other year groups during the course of the school year. Use of textbooks in classrooms will be limited during this period.

11. Designated zones for our different Year groups on the school campus during lunchbreaks etc...

12. Morning breaks and lunchtime breaks have been increased to 2 per day to increase separation and decrease interaction:

Morning breaks/Snack Bar 10.20 – 10.35
(2nd Year, TY, LCA1 & 5th Year students)
11.00 – 11.15 (1st, 3rd & 6th Year students)

Lunch Breaks/Canteen & Snack Bar 12.35 – 1.15 (2nd Year, TY, LCA1 & 5th Year students)
1.15 - 1.55 (1st, 3rd and 6th Year students)

13. Students at post-primary level, apart from specific exemptions will be required to wear face coverings in the classrooms. If unable to wear mask due to medical reasons, parents must notify the school in writing. Students are to provide their own face mask or face visor as every student will have their own preference.

14. All students are obliged to wear their full school uniform and practise Covid-19 protocol as per HSE Guidelines. An exemption will be made for PE day when students can wear their PE uniform, if they so wish. The uniform for PE is a black tracksuit with a white or black t-shirt only (Leggings are not acceptable).

Whilst parents are free to purchase elsewhere we have sourced very competitive prices with our school Indoor Jacket Supplier which can be viewed online at the following link:
<https://www.teamwear.ie/your-shop/gort-community-.school.html>

15. A one-way system will operate in the main school building throughout the school day for students in order to alleviate congestion in the corridors.

16. **‘Stay at home if unwell ‘**will apply as per our Covid Response Plan. Any student presenting with Covid-19 symptoms will be kept in isolation until collected by Parents/Guardians.

17. We are requesting no dropping off/collecting students by car in Community Centre vicinity or anywhere on school campus at any time. Buses only. Students arriving by car are to be dropped off as close to 9.00 as practical.

18. First Year students only to assemble in Community Centre 8.30 – 8.50am. All other Year Groups to proceed to their designated 9.00am classrooms in main school building.

The safety and health of staff and students is our priority and strict Covid-19 protocols have been put in place to safeguard all members of our school community. We will adapt and review our procedure and protocol as required. It is essential that we all follow the COVID procedures.

Here are links to other documents that you may find helpful. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Crossan', written in a cursive style.

Brian Crossan
Principal