



## Return to School

04/08/2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students

The Minister for Education published “**The Roadmap for the Full Return to School**” on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. It sets out what the operation of schools will look like and the range of supports which will be available in a COVID-19 context. That report is available here.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b264b-roadmap-for-the-full-return-to-school/>

Presently we are working through the guidelines and linked documents to plan for the safe operation and reopening of St. Augustine’s College through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19. We are working to minimise the risk of COVID-19 for staff, students, families and the wider community while still providing the highest level of education for the health and wellbeing of students and society as a whole.

We are looking at the steps which can be practically taken by us to minimise the risk of infection for everyone. This being said it is important to understand that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission of infection at any time.

One of the key challenges is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning. We are now identifying the steps we can take to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school and the steps that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of the spread within the school itself in the event that COVID-19 is introduced to the school.

Our plan for return currently is similar to previous years; a staggered one. The need to spend the time with each year group to educate them on the new way that the school will operate is crucial in the facilitation of a successful return to school. With this in mind we will be introducing one-year group per day from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of August. This we hope will give us the time to inform all students on the protocols and systems in place and how they will need to integrate back into daily school life. As each year group returns they are then fully back to school.

Currently the return dates for each year are as follows;

**Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>** ----1<sup>st</sup> year - full day

**Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>** ----6<sup>st</sup> year return - full day ( 1<sup>st</sup> year will also be in school)

**Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>** ----3<sup>rd</sup> year return - full day ( 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year will also be in school)

**Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>** ---- 2<sup>nd</sup> year return - full day ( 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year will also be in school)

**Friday September 4<sup>th</sup>** ---5<sup>th</sup> year return - 1.15 finish ( 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year will also be in school)

**Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>** ---4<sup>th</sup> year - full day (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year will also be in school)

There will be many challenges to achieve these deadlines for return but we are confident that we can get this done. We will be in further contact in the coming weeks.

Kind regards

Michael O Sullivan

