



Davitt College Castlebar

Return to School August 2020



At Davitt College, Castlebar, we very much understand that the past number of months have been difficult times for students and their parents. When planning for the return to our school, our focus is very much placed on the wellbeing and safety of all our school community. We will endeavour, as much as possible, to ensure that your sons/daughters will settle back happily into school. We have put comprehensive measures in place in our school to help keep our school community (students, teachers, special needs assistants, ancillary school staff, parents and members of the Board of Management) safe and well. Our sincere hope is that all of our students can now pick up and progress in their learning and that they experience as full and as enjoyable a curriculum as possible. The safe return to school for our students will require the constant and full support of parents and guardians as we all make every effort to follow all public health requirements that help to prevent COVID-19 from coming into our school or spreading among students and staff.

Please read the following information carefully

Schedule for Re-Opening of School	There will be a phased return to school for all year groups to facilitate Induction Training for both staff and students. To facilitate the safest possible return to school for students and staff, a comprehensive Covid Induction Programme will be delivered to all year groups upon their return, with detailed information regarding what is expected of us in terms of the symptoms of Covid-19, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, physical distancing, use of PPE, dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 in the school community and the impact on other school activities. The full compliance of students with the advice administered in this Induction Programme is essential.
Student Base Classrooms and Zones	Students will be assigned a base classroom or assembly area that they must go to every morning when they enter the school and remain until the bell rings for class. It is important that students practice social distancing, preferably 2m, during non-class times and breaks. Students will be assigned a base room or zoned area of the school, but will move for option, Science and level specific lessons. There have been some creative solutions in reconfiguring classrooms, movement of furniture and changes in layout to ensure a minimum 1 metre physical distancing inside classrooms and quality learning and teaching for all. There is Covid-19 signage throughout the building and grounds.
Code of Behaviour	There is a responsibility on all members of the school community to cooperate and comply with health, safety and wellbeing protocols which reflect advice given by the Department of Education and Skills, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Health and Safety Authority. Non-compliance with the protocols will be treated as a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour and may result in sanctions as appropriate. If necessary, a student may be sent home immediately to protect the health and wellbeing of all.
School Lunches	There will be limited canteen facilities, with packed lunches available. Students are encouraged to bring a packed lunch and drink. The water dispenser and microwaves will not be in operation. There will be no tea or hot water facilities. Students are encouraged to spend as much time outside as possible.
 Sharing Items	Student must not share items with each other under any circumstances e.g. biros, textbooks, clothing, etc.
 Social Distancing	As mentioned, classrooms have been configured to assist in delivering a social distance of a minimum of 1m. However, where possible outside of the classroom 2m is advised. Davitt College cannot stress enough the importance to everyone's health that this requirement is observed. Regardless of how much students may wish to be in the company of their friends, they must do so from a safe distance.
 Cleaning	✓ Extra cleaning staff will be employed to ensure best cleaning practice, with particular focus on touch points and toilets.
 Hand Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hand sanitizers are installed throughout the school building, in addition there are hand sanitizers within the classroom as well as materials for furniture cleaning to be used by students. ✓ Students are advised to engage in regular hand washing. ✓ We would also recommend that students carry their own supply of sanitizer with them in a Ziploc bag with 2 face masks.

<p>Face Coverings</p> 	<p>It is now recommended that teachers and secondary school students wear face coverings, similar to those worn in shops or on public transport, when a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. All members of the school community, students, teachers, support and ancillary staff will be required to follow this Department of Education and Skills Guidance. There may be some exceptions in the case of students with additional needs and those with health needs. If this is the case, please contact the school immediately. We will be following HSE and DES guidelines in this case. Scarves or bandanas is not an acceptable form of face covering.</p>
<p>Cough Etiquette</p> 	<p>Respiratory hygiene is vital to prevent the spread of respiratory infections such as Covid-19. Measures to contain respiratory secretions should be implemented by staff and students and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Covering nose/mouth using disposable tissues when coughing, or sneezing ✓ If this is not possible, to cough or sneeze into your elbow ✓ Disposing of tissue in the nearest bin after use ✓ Performing hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub after coughing or disposing of tissues ✓ Keeping hands away from mucous membranes of the eyes and nose.
<p>Uniform</p>	<p>Students are to present in full uniform while in Davitt College. In light of the fact that changing rooms are not available this year, students may wear their PE uniform to school on the day they are timetabled for PE. Students are not encouraged to share items of clothing and are advised to have spares as regular washing of uniform is important.</p>
<p>Access to Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students will not have the free movement within the school that they once enjoyed at the beginning of the day and during breaks. ✓ <u>Students are not permitted to remain in the school building once classes have finished for the day and must promptly leave the school grounds.</u> This is to commence the cleaning and sanitising of the building for the following day. ✓ <u>Access to the school building will be strictly by appointment only for all visitors.</u> A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities will be maintained.
<p>After School Activities</p>	<p>There will be no after school activities for the first term. This may include supervised study, homework clubs, sports training, etc. This is subject to review.</p>
<p>Lockers</p>	<p>Students will NOT have access to lockers this year to help minimise congregating, close contact and cross contamination from touch points. Teachers will be conscious of this in their class preparation in terms of textbooks needed.</p>
<p>Student with symptoms of Covid-19;</p> <p>Fever A Cough Shortness of breath Loss or change of smell/taste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any member of the school community who becomes unwell/shows symptoms of Covid-19 will immediately be taken to the designated isolation room. The protocols in Davitt College Response Plan will then be followed. ✓ Parents will be contacted immediately if a student feels unwell. He/she must be collected from school at the earliest possible opportunity. ✓ It is vital that you do not send your child to school if he/she is feeling unwell in the morning. ✓ It is also imperative that we have a current phone number and email address for all parents/guardians and contact details of a nominated emergency contact person.
<p>Student at High Risk</p>	<p>A number of students may be unable to return to school due to specific high-risk health conditions. Please contact the school and/or year head to alert us to your concern using telephone number 09490 23060 or email: davittcollege@msletb.ie</p>

Staff, students and parents have an obligation to take care of our own health and safety and that of our community. We each have a key role to play in reducing the spread of Covid-19. Working together, we can make the return to school a safe and manageable experience.

