



Remote Teaching and Learning Plan for Scoil Nano Nagle JNS

1. Introduction

In response to this time of uncertainty regarding school closures, we have formulated this policy to outline how the school will maintain the link between school and home. In the event of another whole or partial school closure, we aim to continue to communicate with our pupils through various means. Much of this policy has been shaped by the school's response to the prolonged school closure from March – September 2020.

We recognise that online safety is of huge importance and the aim of this document is to help to protect both school staff and pupils, while teaching and learning online.

This policy does not set out to replace our Acceptable Usage Policy. Rather, it is proposed as an important addition to the area of learning from a digital platform. The policy presented here should be read also in tandem with our school's Code of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying (including Cyber Bullying) Policy.

The primary obligation of all schools is to the welfare of the learners in their school. This policy, therefore, seeks to ensure that remote learning is safe for all student learners and that personal and sensitive data is also protected under GDPR legislation. Schools must ensure that learning takes place in an environment that is respectful and fair and meets its statutory duties.

This Policy has been formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Education and relevant sections of:

- a) The Education Act (1998)
- b) Education (Welfare) Act (2000)
- c) Equal Status Act (2000)
- d) Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)
- e) Disability Act (2005)
- f) Children First Act (2017)
- g) GDPR
- h) Data Protection Act (2018)
- i) Department of Education: Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools
- j) NEWB Guidelines for Developing a Code of Behaviour (2008).
- k) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary Schools (May 2020)

- l) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling: Supporting Primary Pupils at very High Risk to Covid 19 (August 2020).
- m) Guidance on Remote Learning in a COVID-19 Context: September – December 2020

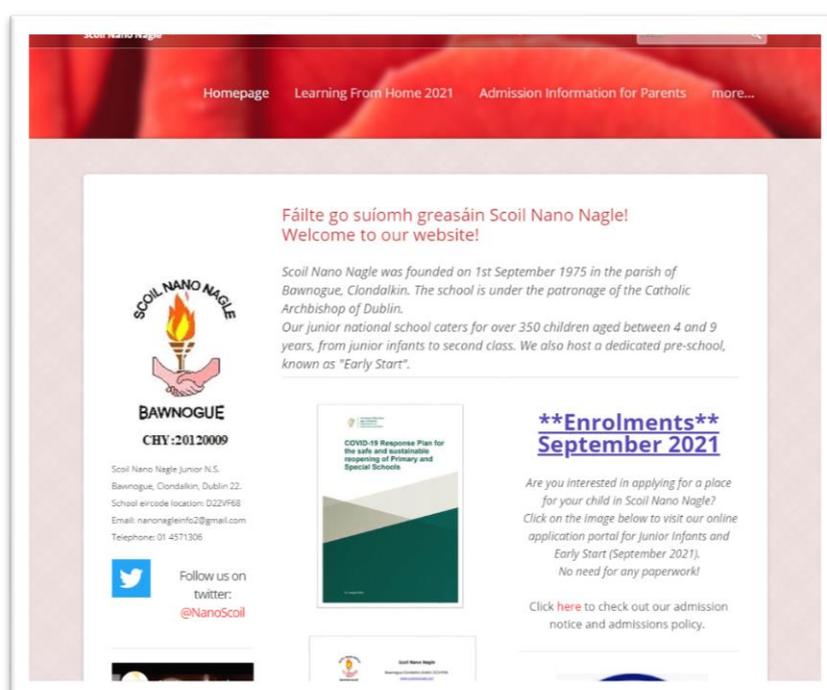
This is a working document. As we continue to explore options available to support distance learning, the document will be updated accordingly.

2. Context

Teaching and Learning is always evolving, especially, as we move deeper into the 21st century. Developments in IT provide us all with great opportunities as learners and teachers. Never before has there been greater scope to learn using technology and it continues to change the learning relationship between teachers and students. Advances in technology mean that assignments can be delivered remotely and that greater access to information on the internet affords the opportunities for real learning to take place under the watchful and professional guidance of the teacher. However, whether a child is being directed remotely or via a traditional classroom environment, it is very important that all partners are aware that once a learning exchange takes place between a student and teacher, whether at home or school, the same statutory rules apply i.e. the school's Code of Positive Behaviour and all of the school's policies apply. These policies are available at: <https://www.scoilnanonagle.com/information-for-parents.html>

We recognise that online collaboration is essential for distance learning and that families are in favour of increased opportunities to maintain the connection between school and home. Scoil Nano Nagle uses a variety of child friendly, online tools, which assist in providing more effective teaching and learning, while also enabling greater communication between staff, families and students.

This policy is supported by our school website: www.scoilnanonagle.com



3. Guidelines for good online communication in Scoil Nano Nagle JNS

1. Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.
2. Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe, respectful and kind manner online.
3. It is the duty of parents/guardians to supervise children while they are working online and to ensure that any content submitted to their teacher is appropriate.
4. Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Class Dojo, our chosen platform.
5. Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to allow for communication with families.
6. Students and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the school and of which parents have been notified (Class Dojo, pre-arranged Zoom calls)
7. Parental permission will be acquired before setting up a profile for a pupil on a communication forum.
8. For video/Zoom calls, parental permission is implied, as the link to a video call will be communicated via the parent/guardian's dojo inbox/e-mail address. Essentially, by virtue of the pupil logging on to the call, permission is assumed.
9. For security reasons, links for zoom calls will only be sent to parents who are registered on Class Dojo.
10. Scoil Nano Nagle JNS cannot accept responsibility for the security of online platforms, in the event that they are compromised.

Scoil Nano Nagle JNS will use two online platforms for communicating and connecting with families/pupils. Our 'Remote Teaching and Learning Plan' will include a combination of assigned work (accessible via website and Class Dojo), pre-recorded teaching segments (via Class Dojo) and live, weekly "check-ins" (via Zoom).

4. Media which the school will use

Class Dojo

Staff will communicate regularly with parents and pupils via Class Dojo. All families are asked to download the app, input their personal code, and, frequently check the app for updates and important information. Teachers will post work for pupils, in line with school policy, during closure via Class Dojo. Consent to join Class Dojo is sought in the school's online enrolment form: <https://scoilnanonagle.schoolonlineforms.com/>

Class Dojo facilitates a class message board, and enables parents and teachers to communicate directly with each other.

Various classes had informally made use of Class Dojo in the past – in April 2020, the school staff formally adopted it as our primary online learning platform.

From March 2021 onwards, each teacher will be assigned an e-mail address (@scoilnannagle.com) through which he/she may communicate with parents/guardians and vice-versa. This is in addition to the Class Dojo communication channel.

Parental queries will be addressed during school hours only (9:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.) and should relate strictly to your child's teaching and learning.



Zoom

Zoom is a video-conferencing platform which will enable teachers, staff and pupils to connect via a live link. Teachers will connect with pupils once a week using pre-arranged Zoom "check-ins". These will not be live lessons but rather wellbeing "check-ins". Since October 2020, each staff member has access to licensed zoom account for work purposes.



5. Rules for pupils using online communication

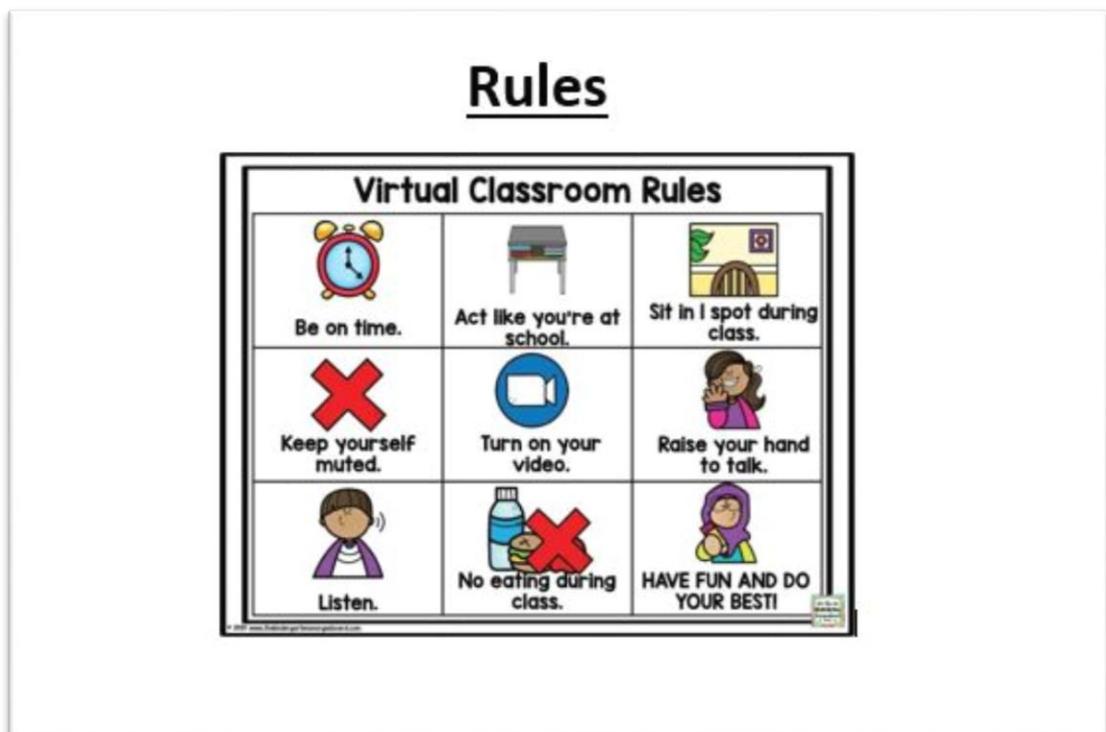
For submitting learning:

1. Submit work and pictures that are appropriate - have an adult take a look at your work before you send it.
2. Use kind and friendly words.

For video calls/Zoom:

1. Remember to ensure you join each Zoom meeting using your family name.
2. Pictures or recordings of the video call are not allowed.

3. Remember our school rules - they are still in place, even online.
4. Set up your device in a quiet space, with no distractions in the background.
5. Join the video with your microphone muted.
6. Raise your hand before speaking, just like you would do in class.
7. If you have the chance to talk, speak in your normal voice, using kind and friendly words.
8. Show respect by listening to others while they are speaking.
9. Ensure that you are dressed appropriately for the video call.
10. Be on time - set a reminder if it helps.
11. Enjoy! Don't forget to wave hello to everyone when you join!



6. Guidelines for parents and guardians

For learning

1. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that pupils are supervised while they work online.
2. Check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate.
3. Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.

For video calls/Zoom

1. Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.
2. Ensure that the school has the correct email address for inviting you to join apps and meetings.
3. The main purpose of a video call in our junior school context is to maintain a social connection between the school staff and pupils. Encourage pupils to listen and enjoy the experience.

4. Be aware that when participating in group video calls, you can be seen and heard unless you are muted or have disabled your camera.
5. You will automatically enter a waiting room when you first join the zoom call. Please note that school staff will only accept users into video call if you can be identified by the display name on your zoom account. (i.e. Family Name)
6. Please ensure that your child is on time for a scheduled video, or they may be locked out. Please request to join the Zoom call approximately five minutes before the scheduled start time. This will give school staff time to verify your email address.
7. Make sure to familiarise your child with the software in advance. For video in particular, show them how to mute/unmute and turn the camera on/off.
8. Participants in the call should be dressed appropriately.
9. An appropriate background/room should be chosen for the video call.
10. For detailed information on GDPR and Zoom, please visit <https://zoom.us/privacy>

It is important to note that any breach of the above guidelines will result in a discontinuation of this method of communication. A breach may also result in a person being immediately removed from a meeting or a meeting being immediately terminated.

7. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Pupils

1. Check assigned work each day/week
2. Communication may only take place during normal school hours
3. The normal school calendar will apply
4. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
 - a. Code of Behaviour
 - b. Anti-Bullying Policy
 - c. Acceptable Use Policy
5. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible in this evolving and unprecedented situation.
 - a. In so far as possible, provision for SEN students will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.
 - b. In so far as possible, provision for student at very high-risk to Covid 19 will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

8. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Parents

1. We ask parents/guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to.
2. Check-in on their child's school work on a daily basis and talk to their child about the work being assigned.
3. The health and wellbeing of all is paramount. Circumstances may change for any of us unexpectedly, teachers or parents, so please keep schooling in perspective and do not allow anything school related to impinge on your child negatively. You are the primary educator of your child and you make those calls. We encourage a little work every week day for routine. We provide work and guidance and ask parents and pupils to do their best and that is all.

9. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Teachers/SNA's

1. Check uploaded work each school day.
2. Communication may only take place during normal school hours.
3. The normal school calendar will apply.
4. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
 - a. Child Protection Policy
 - b. Data Protection Policy
5. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible.

An essential complement to Scoil Nano Nagle JNS' remote learning strategy will be targeted phone calls to boost home engagement with Class Dojo, Zoom and home-learning more generally. These calls are primarily undertaken by the school's HSCL Co-ordinator and SET team, and assisted by the schools Special Needs Assistants and class teachers on occasion. The calls form also part of the school's wider special education and social inclusion response to closure.

10. Remote Teaching and Learning Provision specifically for the following Covid 19 related scenarios



Provision for children who are at very high risk to Covid 19:

The school will engage directly with relevant parents, regarding remote educational provision for children who are deemed to be at **very high risk** to Covid-19 (see HSE Guidelines) where medical certification has been provided to the school.

Provision for all other children who are instructed to self-isolate by their GP or HSE Public Health, educational provision will be provided as follows:

1. **Children who are awaiting Covid 19 test results for themselves or a family member and have been instructed by their GP to isolate at home for a few days.**
These pupils will be supported to catch up on their learning on their return to school.
2. **Children isolating at home on instruction from their GP due to a confirmed case within their own family/close contact outside of school (14-day isolation period).**
Teacher will link in with the pupil via Class Dojo.

3. School POD (group of six) instructed by HSE Public Health to self-isolate.

Teacher will link in with the pupils via Class Dojo (not video conferencing)

4. School bubble (whole class) instructed by HSE Public Health to self-isolate (14day isolation period).

Teacher will engage with the bubble daily on Class Dojo and weekly on Zoom.

5. Whole school closure as instructed by HSE Public Health (duration of closure will be advised by Public Health)

Teachers will engage with pupils, using a blended approach of pre-recorded mini lessons/segments, Class Dojo interactions and weekly contact on Zoom.

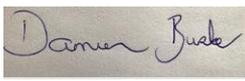
Please note that the current situation is quite fluid and these circumstances may vary throughout the year.

11. Summary for Parents:

1. Do what you can, within your circumstances. Forget about following books and workbooks outside of the work set by teachers for the moment.
2. There will be no school work set for planned school closures/holidays.
3. Please keep abreast of postings on Class Dojo – Along with our regular e-mails, it is our main mode of communication going forward.
4. We ask parents/guardians, students and teachers to ensure protocols are adhered to at all times.
5. If you have yet to connect to Class Dojo, please do so as soon as possible. If you are experiencing difficulties please e-mail (nanonagleinfo2@gmail.com) the school and we will assist you in any way that we can.

We thank the school community for adhering to the above guidelines for everyone's safety and welfare.

This plan was ratified by the BOM of Scoil Nano Nagle JNS at its meeting on 23rd March 2021 and is subject to change, in light of any guidance or instruction received from Department of Education and Skills/HSE Public Health.

Signed: 

**Damien Burke
(Principal)**

Signed: 

**Martha Lynch
(Chairperson, BoM)**

