

Ventilation and Heating

Dear parents and carers

You will no doubt be aware of new government guidance for preventing the spread of coronavirus in schools which has been issued over the last few weeks. One important area, as we move in to winter, relates to ventilation and heating.

The new guidance states that schools should ensure there is an appropriate supply of fresh air to assist with minimising the risk of virus infection.

However, this must be balanced with the need to maintain indoor temperatures for comfort and health and wellbeing.

The new guidance suggests that there are two air changes per hour for classrooms and that a temperature of 17°C is maintained.

With this in mind, we plan to put the following arrangements in place:

- close the front and back doors of the building during teaching hours and instead to
- open all the top windows in every classroom and keep all internal doors open
- regularly check internal temperatures and adjust heating as required

This will allow a continuous air flow while still hopefully keeping the school at a comfortable temperature in which to work.

At breaks and lunchtimes, we will open the external doors to allow further movement of air.

We know the weather will change in the coming months, and whilst we need to follow the guidance, we are, of course, concerned about our pupils' wellbeing. If pupils are finding it cold, they may want to wear more layers and bring a coat for wearing outside. These can be stored in their personal box at school when they are not needed.

You will no doubt also be aware of the new guidance to any school in a Level 3 area regarding pupils in the senior phase wearing face masks at all times. As this has only recently been announced, we will provide further guidance in a separate email. In the meantime, we continue to encourage pupils to wear masks in the communal areas of the school and when they are working within 2m of a teacher.

We will speak to pupils on Wednesday morning about these changes and to remind them again of the importance of washing hands, maintaining a distance from others when possible and wearing face masks so they feel reassured about their safety.