

**Scoil Náisiúnta Cúil an tSúdaire 2
Roll 18203N**

Hand Hygiene Policy

**Handwashing is important.
If hands are not clean, they can spread germs.**

Policy Statement

Scoil Naisiunta Cúil an tSúdaire 2 (also known as Sandylane National School) aims to keep children healthy and happy by supporting the children to understand the importance of hand hygiene. This policy is underpinned by the Department of Education Covid 19, control measures outlined in the Covid 19 response plan for reopening schools. Good hand hygiene is the most effective way of preventing transmission of infection, and staff will support children in using the proper technique for handwashing.

Hand Hygiene Facilities and Responsibilities of the School Community

Staff and students at Sandylane National School will understand why hand hygiene is important as well as when and how to wash their hands. (see above statement)

- Our school will promote good hygiene and display posters throughout the schools on how to wash your hands. [Follow the HSE guidelines on handwashing.](#)
- Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).
- Use of hand hygiene facilities including wash hand basins will be managed so as to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitisers.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers are deployed at exit and entry points to Sandylane National School and outside classrooms and care will be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risks of falls.
- Warm water is preferable to hot or cold water for hand washing. Warm water is available throughout Sandylane National School.
- Wash hand basins, running water, liquid soap and hand drying facilities are provided in all toilets, the kitchen and any food preparation areas in our school.
- Hand washing facilities will be maintained in good condition and supplies of soap and hand towels will be topped up regularly to encourage everyone to use them.
- Posters displaying hand washing techniques and promoting hand washing are placed on walls adjacent to washing facilities and can be laminated or placed in a plastic sleeve.
- Hand sanitiser is suitable for use for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled (look clean). Evidence of effectiveness is best for alcohol based hand rubs but non-alcohol based hand rubs can be used too.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene

Students and staff should perform hand hygiene:

- **Before** arrival to school – all staff and students to wash their hands thoroughly
- **Upon arrival** at school - all staff and students to use hand sanitizer (children to only use sanitizers under the supervision of class teacher)
- Before eating or drinking (little break or lunch) – all staff and students to wash their hands
- When preparing food - all staff and students to wash their hands
- After using the toilet - all staff and students to wash their hands
- After coughing or sneezing - all staff and students to wash their hands
- After playing outdoors – ie. on their way back in from yard/doing PE (students to wash their hands lining up pod by pod).
- If hands are physically dirty - all staff and students to wash their hands
- Before and after using protective gloves - staff to wash their hands
- When leaving the school grounds - all staff and students to sanitize their hands
- After touching potentially contaminated - all staff and students to wash their hands
- If in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms - all staff and students to wash their hands

How to wash your hands with soap and water. (as per the HSE guidelines)

1. Wet your hands with warm water and apply soap.
2. Rub your hands together palm to palm until the soap forms a lather.
3. Rub the back of one hand with your palm and fingers spread so you wash between fingers. Repeat with the other hand.
4. Interlock the top of your hands and rub your fingertips - this cleans your fingertips and knuckles.

5. Then finally grasp your thumb tightly and twist to make sure your thumbs are cleaned. Repeat with the other hand.
6. Then finally grasp your thumb tightly and twist to make sure your thumbs are cleaned. Repeat with the other hand.
7. This should take at least 20 seconds.
8. Rinse your hands under running water.
9. Dry your hands with a clean towel or paper towel.

If you have dry skin or a skin condition, apply moisturiser after washing your hands and at night.

Teaching staff to teach students how to wash their hands at the start of the school year - August 2020. Staff to observe hand washing and check hands if necessary, throughout each day.

Signed: _____
The Ven Leslie Stevenson, Chairperson

Date: 17/08/2020

Signed: _____
Ms. Deirdre Chute , Principal

Date: 17/08/2020