The following organisational guidelines for Cumber Claudy Primary school are based on the “Northern Ireland Re-Opening Schools Guidance” published 13th August 2020. Where a statement is put in quotation marks, it is lifted directly from the guidance.

General Guidelines

Strict social distancing has been relaxed, but, as far as is practicable, social distancing of 2 metres should be observed.

Protective bubbles (each class) and increased hygiene will be used to mitigate risk.

Staff will work only within one protective bubble (one class) There will not be movement of staff from one group to another.

Nobody showing any symptoms which are consistent with Covid-19 should be coming to school.

Bubbles/classes will not be sent home unless someone within the bubble/class tests positive. If someone in a bubble/class tests positive, the rest of the class will be off for two weeks. As will the classes of any siblings of the child who tested positive. No-one from that bubble/class will be allowed back into school within that two week period. Anyone who becomes symptomatic or tests positive within that period should contact the school, as ’track and trace’ is vitally important.

“Parents should be actively discouraged from entering the school buildings.”

Children will wash hands regularly. Hand sanitizing should only be used as a support. Regular, thorough handwashing is essential.

A maximum distance possible should be maintained between adults. Adults attending meetings lasting more than 15 minutes will wear face coverings.

Children who display symptoms in school will be taken to the ‘quiet room’ where they will be supervised by an adult until they are picked up by a parent/carer. The parent/carer should ring the school from the school gates and the child will be brought to them. The supervising adult will wear a face covering, a plastic apron and protective gloves.

Transport to and from school.

Children will be encouraged to wear masks on school transport, although masks are not mandatory for children under 11. Children will be expected to sit in family groups. It is acknowledged within the guidance that there will be buses which drop off at more than one school. Children should stay with children from their own school when sitting on the bus.

No eating or drinking will be allowed on the bus.

The document states that school transport “should only be used where there is no alternative.”

Children showing any symptoms should not travel on the bus.

Arriving at school.

Children will be able to come into school from 8:30 onwards. They will be able to come in up until 9:15. There will be no breakfast club.

Signs on the gates will direct each year group to the correct gate and entry door into their area of the school. Children will not all be entering school through the front door. Each class has been allocated an entry door into their area.

Staff will be at the gate to help and ensure compliance.

Children will sanitise their hands as soon as they enter the classroom. They will then take turns washing hands in the initial period in the room.

Children who come in with face coverings will put their face covering in an individual plastic bag which they will get back at the end of the day.

Children will not be expected to wear face coverings if they are “not able to handle them.”

Children will not be allowed to bring anything to school with them the other than snack and lunch boxes, water bottles and coats. Plastic lunch boxes should be used to facilitate daily cleaning of the box. School bags should not be brought into school.

Curriculum Delivery

“In so far as possible” classrooms will be organised so that children sit on their own front-facing seats. All p3 to p7 classes in CCPS will be organised with front facing seats. Children in the foundation stage will have their own seats in tables of four.

Children will have PE sessions each week. PE equipment will be shared out to classes and changed on a rota basis each half term.

Children will have their own supply of equipment (pencils, etc) in an individual ‘pot’ or case which no-one else uses.

Break times between lessons will be staggered and different areas outside will be allocated to different classes each week. A rota will be drawn up for this.

Outdoor education is being encouraged so children should bring a pair of wellington boots into school which will stay in school all year. An outdoor coat should be brought into school every day. The outdoor areas will be utilised on a rota basis.

Snacks at Break Time

Only exact money will be taken for snacks. No change can be given. Parents will be given a list of prices for the snack items. Primary 1 and 2 children will bring their own snacks into school.

Dinners

Dinners will be offered, one hot dinner with an alternative of a packed lunch each day. Dinners will be taken to the classrooms by the canteen staff. Children will eat in their classrooms. Exact money should be sent in with your child as change cannot be given. Payment for dinners may be made daily, weekly, monthly or half-termly.

Uniform

Children will be allowed to wear jogging bottoms for school along with their school jumpers. They do not need to bring PE kits. It is recommended that children wear a new set of clean clothes each day. For this reason we are taking a flexible approach towards uniforms. For children who choose to wear skirts or pinafores, the teacher will let the class know when the PE days are so that they can wear something more appropriate on those days.

End of school day

Teachers accompany their pupils out of the classes using the identified entry/exit door for their ‘bubble.’

Each teacher takes their class out, and for the children whose bus/parent is not there yet, the teacher takes them to a lining up spot in the playground where they are an appropriate distance from other classes. Children are sent to parents/buses from there. This will reduce congestion at the gate.