



# Burrow National School

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## THE BURROW SCHOOL CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN

### **Introduction:**

This policy document was drawn up to support the learning and wellbeing of students while out of the school environment. Due to extended school closures, teaching and learning approaches have had to change so as to provide pupils with an effective education programme, insofar as possible.

### **Rationale:**

Under the terms of Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary and Post-primary schools (DES, 2020), schools are obliged to put in place contingency measures to support the continuity of teaching and learning during the current school closures as a result of the COVID 19 virus. As recommended by the PDST, The Burrow School has developed a whole school approach to dealing with the current challenges.

### **Aims:**

Through our Continuity of Learning Plan we aim to:

- Encourage the regular engagement of students in lessons, tasks and learning experiences across a range of curriculum areas/subjects.
- Provide specific and regular supports for students with special educational needs.
- Provide specific and customised supports for students at risk of educational disadvantage.
- Provide regular assignments to students that are purposeful, manageable.
- Provide regular, practical, supportive and customised feedback to students on work submitted.
- Adopt a whole school approach to engagement with students to ensure consistency.
- Ensure not to overburden students or their parents and guardians.

## The Development of our Continuity of Learning Plan

- In the fortnight prior to the Easter break a decision was made by the In School Management Team (ISM) to introduce the app Showbie as a platform for assigning and submitting daily work for the students. We provided a detailed email to parents on how to set up an account on Showbie and access the app via an individual class code. (Please see Appendix 1, email to parents dated 20/03/2020).
- As part of the daily schedule teachers have agreed to engage in assessment of children's learning by requesting that four pieces of work should be submitted via photo and teachers will provide specific feedback on those. These would be in English, Irish, Maths and one other subject.
- We decided to have a weekly themed activity for the website so students could send photos of their creations e.g.

Week 1	Lego
Week 2	Baking
Week 3	Jigsaws
Week 4	Art
Week 5	Jokes

It is hoped that uploading photographs and work samples to the school website will contribute to maintaining a sense of community within our school.

- Teachers have been encouraged to access the wide array of online supports which are available through Scoilnet and through the guidance provided by <https://www.pdst.ie/DistanceLearning/SourcesofInformation> (see also Appendix 3)
- The PDST's (Professional Development Service for Teachers) 'Reflective Tool for Planning' (see Appendix 2) was circulated among staff to encourage them to consider the following in their planning:
  - Attitudes and Skills, as well as knowledge
  - Learner Outcomes
  - Learner Experiences (it was agreed that a variety of learner experiences would be included in plans – independent learning, encouragement of working with siblings, textbook based work as well as activity based work, the use of technology and the use of the child's home and immediate environment.)
  - Structure- it was hoped that older children could follow the user friendly schedule created by teachers

## **Other Key Considerations of our Continuity of Learning Plan**

### ***In school communication structure***

- Staff will communicate through Whats App
- ISM will chat weekly through Whats App to discuss updates relating to Covid 19 restrictions and to review and evaluate our school continuity of learning programme
- To date the staff have met once on Zoom- following the Easter break
- All staff meetings will be arranged through Whatsapp
- Meetings will be held at a time that suits all staff, including those who must care for children at home and elderly and we will instigate a staff meeting for early May and Ms Anderson will record the minutes

### ***Communication with families (the following norms have been agreed at whole staff level)***

- The teachers will continue to work from their fortnightly plan and will adapt accordingly.
- SET will contact their individual pupils as they feel is appropriate based on their individual needs. This will be coordinated by Maeve Swindell.
- SNA will communicate with her pupil in conjunction with class teacher and SET.

### ***The use of assessment and feedback to inform learning and teaching***

- Showbie is the main form of communication between teachers and pupils/parents. Teachers are online daily from 10 am – 1 pm to assist, encourage, correct and comment on the children's work and to chat via text if any students wishes.
- It is hoped that parents will use this form of communication to send completed pieces of work to the teacher.
- Teachers will have their daily assignments posted the evening before, ready for all students at 8.35 am (original school start time).
- This will hopefully support the continuity of Learning and Teaching as the pupils will receive feedback from the teacher and motivation to continue learning from home. Teachers will also be provided with an opportunity to assess how effective the work being set is in meeting the needs of the pupils.
- Following the Easter break the ISM will discuss whether 20/30 min online group chat for the senior classes 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> will be suitable, appropriate and beneficial. For classes Junior – 2<sup>nd</sup> teachers will look at doing a video recording for their class.

To date there has been no supporting directives regarding the live streaming of teacher videos from the DES (Department of Education and Skills). Therefore, teachers will not be engaging with online teaching. We are aware that not all families have access to devices and we are trying to cater for all the needs of the entire school community.

### **Success Criteria**

The success of Our Continuity of Learning Plan is measured through:

- Positive engagement of children in the assignments/tasks set by their teachers
- Regular engagement between teachers and pupils/parents
- Positive parental feedback

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed, as necessary.

### **Ratification**

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management in April 2020.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### **Appendix 1: Email to parents (20/03/20)**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times. I understand the challenges that families are facing, with trying to work from home, entertain the children, and keeping everyone safe to name but a few.

In light of the current situation we are keen to continue with the children's academic learning, daily routine and structure. With that in mind we have decided to use Showbie as an online learning platform to assign and submit schoolwork.

The teachers will be available between 10am and 1pm Monday to Friday to answer any questions or queries that the children wish to ask them. You will be given a code by the class teacher via email later today. The teacher will issue you with instructions on how to create an account. Each class teacher will assign suggested daily tasks in Irish, English, maths and one other subject. These can be submitted via Showbie (photograph, Audio or word document etc.). Please sign up by 8.35 am on Monday 23rd March as teachers will be issuing work from then.

Please follow the instructions below:

Showbie Child Sign Up

1. Open up your browser
2. Go onto Showbie.com
3. Select 'Sign Up for Free'

4. Select 'I'm a Student'
5. Select 'Sign Up with Username'
6. Add first name, second name, username and password (make sure to make note of your password and keep it safe). No need to add an email address.
7. Add code provided by class teacher e.g. L82H3 and select 'Join Class'
8. Once added to class you will be able to see assignment descriptions and due dates provided to you by class teacher.
9. Select the class you have been added to e.g. 'Miss Kelly's 6<sup>th</sup> Class'

#### Adding work to Showbie

1. Click on the assignment
2. Press the '+' icon to add documents or voice notes.
3. To edit any work that you upload press the '...' button to the right of your upload.
4. Make sure your uploads are clear.

We are hoping that this platform will be a means of communication between the class teacher and her students, obviously this is not an ideal situation but we are not in ideal times.

Each week we will email out a theme ie. baking, lego construction, nature art. If you would like to take pictures of your child's work and email it to [burrowsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:burrowsecretary@gmail.com) for the website please do. Teachers will let you know what the theme is each Monday.

Also check out the news section on our website for some resources and activities (these are suggestions only).

There will be no work issued during the Easter Holidays.

Thinking of you all at this time,

Ms Lynn

Principal

## Appendix 2: REFLECTIVE TOOL FOR PLANNING

Prompts to guide teachers as they reflect on pupil learning and provide guidance to families as they assign learning activities

Learner Outcomes	Content	Learner Experiences	Resources	Differentiation	Assessment
<p>What Learning outcomes, strand or strand unit of the curriculum does this lesson relate to?</p> <p>Will this learning activity motivate children to learn independently or with support?</p> <p>Does this learning activity encourage the development of skills and or attitudes as well as the acquisition of knowledge?</p>	<p>Is the content flexible and adaptable to various home learning environments?</p> <p>Does the content facilitate the development of attitudes, skills and knowledge ?</p> <p>Has the content been devised collaboratively to ensure learning opportunities for all pupils at this class level?</p>	<p>Are pupils engaging purposefully in meaningful learning activities?</p> <p>Have pupils the opportunity to engage in open ended activities?</p> <p>Is there a balance between active learning activities and book work?</p> <p>Is there an opportunity for learners to grow through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive?</p>	<p>Are resources available and accessible to all?</p> <p>When devising content has account been taken of time limitations in the home learning environment or a situation where there may be a number of siblings involved in learning at home?</p>	<p>How can this activity be differentiated for different levels of ability?</p>	<p>Can children explain what they have learned?</p> <p>Can pupils make connections between this learning and other contexts?</p> <p>Will the assessment point children to further learning in this area?</p> <p>Is there an opportunity for children to reflect on their learning and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning?</p> <p>Are learning outcomes attainable?</p>

### Appendix 3: LEADING CONTINUITY OF LEARNING RESOURCES

#### RESOURCE BANK

Click on the images and links below to find out more about various platforms and their online features that can be used to lead continuity of learning.

		
<p>Teaching Online for Primary and Post-Primary Teachers</p>	<p>PDST Distance Learning Page</p>	<p>PDST Health and Wellbeing SPHE, Wellbeing and PE Supports</p>
<p>curaclam ar líne curriculum online</p>		
<p>Curriculum Online</p>	<p>Online resources for Children with Special Educational Needs</p>	<p>Scoilnet supports Primary and Post-Primary teachers in sharing and finding useful resources for the classroom.</p>
		
<p>A hub of information and tools to help teachers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis</p>	<p>NPC has prepared learning activities for parents to complete with their children</p>	<p>INTO has collected some practical tips and tricks for our members on home-based learning</p>