



# 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 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

- Following an announcement from The Government not to re-open schools on 6<sup>th</sup> January a decision was made by the In School Management Team (ISM) to re-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 06/01/21). We arranged for the school books to be collected on 7<sup>th</sup> January (between 12-2pm) and 8<sup>th</sup> of January (between 13.30 – 3.30pm)
- 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 creation e.g.

Week 1	Make a rainbow fun activity
Week 2	Dress up as someone who helps us during Covid to say thank you
Week 3	Enjoying life
Week 4	Spring

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 and email
- 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
- 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 Ms Craig 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 plans 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, Ms Flanagan and Ms Stout. Ms Swindell will host zoom meetings for the SET children and Ms Flanagan will do the same for 5<sup>th</sup> class Maths group.
- SNA will communicate with her pupil in conjunction with class teacher and SET.
- Anyone not submitting work after a fortnight will be contacted by Ms Lynn by phone

### ***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 students at 8.35 am (original school start time).
- Teachers will deliver a daily message to their students and also recorded messages to aid their delivery of the curriculum.
- 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.

- Zoom chat calls will take place once a week from week 4 (previous to this it was once a fortnight).

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 (06/01/2021)**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times and you all had an enjoyable Christmas.

In light of the current situation we now find ourselves in, we are keen to continue with the children's academic learning, daily routine and structure commencing on Monday 11th January. With that in mind we have decided to return to "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 and to correct/comment on all submitted work. You will be given a code by the class teacher via email in the next few days. The teacher will issue you with instructions on how to create an account. Each class teacher will assign suggested daily tasks in the three core subjects of 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 11th January as teachers will be issuing work from then.

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

Each week we will have a whole school theme project. Class teachers will let you know what the theme is each Monday. If you would like to participate and take pictures of your child's work, please email it to [burrowsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:burrowsecretary@gmail.com) for Ruth to put on the website.

**Your child's school books will be available to collect Thursday 7th January between 12 pm - 2pm and Friday 8th January between 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm in the yard. Please endeavour to collect the books so the children can continue with the work set by the teacher online.**

For anyone who completed the CAPPS form in 6th class it is my understanding that the entrance assessments will not take place in January. Please contact the local secondary schools for more information.

Just a reminder we close on 31st January for applications for Junior Infants for September 2021. Both the post box and emails will be checked regularly.

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>