

**Actions to follow during Public Health Restrictions as a result of COVID-19**

The following considerations and actions have been added to the Coláiste Bhríde Critical Incident Policy (CIMP) following the guidelines *Responding to Critical Incidents during School Closures and Public Health Restriction arising from COVID-19 Information Booklet for Schools* (Department of Education and Skills). These considerations and actions are to be followed in conjunction with the school's Critical Incident Management Policy and Plan (revised June 2019).

**Responding to critical incidents in school during Public Health Restrictions****a) Convening a meeting with parties affected:**

Coláiste Bhríde will consider how to meet with vulnerable students in the context of the incident whilst maintaining social distance guidelines. A venue with appropriate capacity will be identified and protocols outlined in the COVID-19 response plan will be followed. We will also consider how to communicate with the bereaved family whilst physical distancing measures are in place; by phone calls, card, school app facility.

**b) Notifying staff and parents:**

Coláiste Bhríde will use available technologies to communicate with parents and staff; staff digital newsletter, teacher Microsoft Team, email, school app.

**c) Connecting with staff:**

The school will share with staff any resources being forwarded to parents by digital means.

**d) Connecting with students:**

The school will connect with students during school hours while observing HSE guidelines. Out of school hours the school will communicate with students and continue to provide resources via the school app.

**e) Bereavement rituals: Funeral restrictions and alternative goodbyes:**

The school will at all times reassure students that the bereaved family understands the need to comply with current Public Health restrictions and that the school will endeavour to show support to the family and each other in alternative ways. The school will remind students to be considerate and sensitive when posting messages on such platforms. Links to online streamed funeral services will be shared with members of the school community.

**f) Review of policy and strategies:**

The Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) will continue to review the CIMP and appendix during the period of Public Health restrictions while the school is open.

**g) Continue to provide support:**

Coláiste Bhríde will continue to engage with students after critical incidents occur through the Pastoral Care Structure, Care Team, school counsellor and advice and support of external agencies including NEPS, on an individual and collective basis.

**h) Follow Up Actions:**

The CIMT will review and agree a protocol on how to support students and staff during and following critical incidents during the possibility of school closure.

**Responding to critical incidents in school during school closures**

In addition to the considerations and actions above the following protocols will also apply during a period of school closure:

The Coláiste Bhríde CIMT will

- meet virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform to plan the school’s response to critical incidents which occur during a period of school closure.
- agree and record a “communication tree” for contacting staff and advise staff of the initial Action Plan.
- agree a system of how parents will share news of the incident with their child, sharing the NEPS resources for this.
- facilitate a school platform for compiling messages of condolences/well wishes.
- disseminate information about live streamed funeral services via the school app.
- share information about supports available via the school app.
- review the protocols above following return to school and append these considerations and actions accordingly.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

John Naylor, Chairperson, Board of Management