**St. Joseph’s Specialist School,**

**Thomas Hynes Rd, Newcastle, Galway.**

**Telephone 091 521895.**

**Email theocffice@stjosephspns.ie**

**Chairperson of the Board of Management: Audrey Pidgeon**

**Principal: Sarah McGinley**

**COVID-19 Policy Statement**

St Josephs Special School Galway 19047H is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

* continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff
* provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
* display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
* agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
* inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
* adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education
* keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
* ensure staff engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
* implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
* provide instructions for staff and pupils to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
* implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions\*.

\*This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s),

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed: \_Sarah McGinley (principal\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_August 2020\_\_\_\_

**Review and Ratification**

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents’ Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy can be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management as required.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

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 (Principal)