



Information Note:

Temporary Teacher Allocation (Covid-19) for Post Primary Schools during the 21/22 School Year.

Background:

In the context of COVID-19, safety is paramount in our schools and all safety provisions within schools will continue according to public health advice developed for educational settings. The Department of Education will continue to support as necessary infection prevention and control measures in schools to ensure the ongoing safety of the school community.

The operational supports to underpin the necessary infection prevention and control measures in schools are outlined in the '*Roadmap for the full return to school*', and Circular 0046/2020, '*COVID-19 operational supports for the full return to school*'. The following additional allocation(s) is for the purpose of supporting schools to implement the necessary infection prevention and control measures contained in the school's COVID-19 Response Plan to ensure that the school can continue to operate safely.

As part of the COVID-19 operational supports, a temporary teacher allocation was provided in the 2020/21 school year. Schools will continue to receive this temporary allocation in the 2021/22 school year.

1.1 PTR Adjustment of 0.6 WTE

A teacher allocation equivalent to a pupil teacher ratio (PTR) reduction of 0.6 will be allocated to schools in the free education scheme based on recognised mainstream school enrolments on 30 September 2020.

This allocation will support the important work of teaching and learning and provide additional teachers needed to support teacher substitution, management of physical distancing requirements by reallocating class timetables in schools to smaller groups class sizes where necessary. The allocation will also provide for management supports.



1.2 Guidance Provision

An allocation in respect of Guidance Provision (the equivalent of a pupil teacher ratio (PTR) reduction of 0.1) will be provided to all schools to support student wellbeing. Schools will have flexibility to consider how best to align this resource allocation within the objectives of the School's Guidance Plan.

1.3 Urgent and unforeseen challenges for implementing the School COVID-19 Response plan.

Schools that received an additional allocation through the appeals process to facilitate the safe reopening of the school in the 2020/21 school year will continue to receive this allocation for the 2021/22 school year.

Schools that anticipate challenges in the 2021/22 school year in implementing important infection and prevention control measures outlined in the School COVID-19 Response Plan, are advised to contact the Department by email to allocations@education.gov.ie no later than **21 April 2021**.

1.4 Lead Worker Representative

The COVID-19 Return to Work Safely Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace. Every school will appoint one Lead Worker Representative. In schools with more than 40 staff, a second Lead Worker Representative will be appointed.

Where the LWR is a teacher, the LWR will receive protected time of 2 hours per week from timetable to enable them to carry out their duties in that role.

Schools are required to provide details of the teacher(s) appointed as the LWR by email to allocations@education.gov.ie

On receipt of this information, an allocation of 2 hours will be provided to the school in respect of each teacher appointed as the LWR.

Issued by: Paraic Joyce, Principal Officer, Post Primary Teacher Allocations Section
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