

Statement from Tipperary Education & Training Board on Reopening Schools for the school year 2020/2021.

Tipperary Education and Training Board's Chief Executive welcomes the Government's road map for full return to school and the enhanced measures and funding to support a safe return to school. The re-opening of our schools is in the best interest of all in our school communities, however it will not be without its challenges.

The role of Tipperary Education and Training Board's supports is to add value to the individual services on the ground. Since early March 2020 through our Business Continuity Team we are actively engaged with our network of eleven schools and one special school planning for the delivery of our essential services including teaching and learning, school meals and payments to staff and suppliers.

The key challenge facing our front line services is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide an environment where teachers feel able to engage with pupils in a way that supports their learning. No interpersonal activity is without risk and this will involve doing everything practical to avoid the introduction of Covid-19 into a school community.

We continue to work with our schools to support the implementation of the Government guidelines and Covid-19 implementation plans supporting risk assessment and management. Each school has its own unique environment and are best placed to decide on physical reconfiguration with support from our administrative offices.

Schools will operate in accordance with the Government's Return to Work Protocol and the road map to full return to school in partnership with unions and lead worker representatives, parents, students, staff and Boards of Management across the various school sites.

Bernadette Cullen

Chief Executive

Tipperary Education & Training Board.