



Dear Principal,

You will be aware that on 1st May 2020, the Government published a roadmap to ease Covid-19 restrictions (*Roadmap to Re-opening Ireland*) [click here](#) and reopen Ireland's economy and society. It is outlined in the roadmap that schools will be re-opening on a phased and gradual basis in September 2020. On Monday, May 18th schools may open in a very limited capacity solely for the organisation of remote learning.

We have had reports of some schools seeking that staff report for work, for a variety of reasons, some for a period of time, some to do duties that would not be appropriate to the member's grade or role. This is not acceptable, the only acceptable rationale for requesting staff to report for work is for the completion of essential or urgent duties, which are not possible from home.

The 18th does not signify a return to "business as usual" and remote working should continue where in line with the contemporaneous public health advice.

As such the union has advised its SNA members that they should adhere to this advice and presenting for work should only be in circumstances where there are duties that are clearly essential, appropriate to their grade and cannot be carried out remotely.

Equally we wish to remind schools that safe systems of work need to be put in place to ensure the continued health, safety and welfare of employees and to reduce the potential risk of the spread of Covid-19, by adherence to the "The Return to Work Safety Protocol" that has been developed. This protocol comes out of lengthy discussions at the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF). This body is comprised of four members representing employers and four members representing trade unions.

The document can be viewed here - [click here](#).

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Lambert".

Shane Lambert
Assistant General Secretary, Schools,
Education Division, Fórsa