

## Frequently Asked Questions by Parents (Junior Phase)

**In the event that the year ends with teaching and learning still online, will the learners (form 3) write exams?**

No.

**Is the vaccination exercise open to those not in hostel? If so, what are the logistics?**

The vaccination launch will only be for those on campus. However, as with the 18+ year-olds, we will arrange for on campus vaccination as soon as the Ministry of Health allows for this and has the personnel to send a team/s up to Waterford Kamhlaba.

**As our lives return to normal, will Waterford remain closed for face-to-face learning? If so, how long? What is the reason for this? I am not clear why privately funded school need to be closed for normal schooling. I thought that the notice from government was targeted for public school.**

The Ministry of Education and Training, together with the PM, has authority over enforced school closure nationwide. This latest dictate is nationwide. As an international school, we run a different academic calendar, with holidays and exam schedules that are very different from the national system. School closure, at this time, is like curfew or closure of privately owned businesses.

**Perhaps, there seems to be a grey zone in interpreting the directives from the government. We would like to know more clearly what are the parameters on which Waterford is basing its decision to keep school closed for face-to-face learning. One of these is how we perceive the security situation. Grateful for the clarification on this.**

I wish there was a grey zone, then we could work within different parameters. There is only one at the moment – all schools are closed. I had requested some exception and the only exception to this, is one that is for all, we are open to those taking external, international examinations.

**Although Waterford is open for online learning, I understand that the boarding students are able to attend a normal face-to-face learning.**

Our boarders are engaging in online teaching in a supervised classroom environment. No 'live' teaching is currently taking place. The reason for this being that the lesson can be broadcast through a single device thereby reducing the demand on the internet. We are making every attempt to ensure that no matter whether on campus or off, all students are receiving the same educational opportunities.

**Do you consider an option of opening face-to-face learning to day students who prefers to learn in a classroom environment?**

I would love to be able to have all students on campus, even if online. However, this does not comply with the government regulations. Our classrooms are used as study

halls/individual learning environments for boarders. The school, as such, is officially closed to face-to-face learning.

**What is the reason why this cannot be done if not? Is it a transportation issue? As street came back to normal, there seems to have no reason not to restart the transportation service.**

As we return to greater normality, we will resume transport for those taking external exams.

**Related to the above, I heard that some teachers are not coming back to campus and boarders still need to use online learning in the classroom. What is the reason why the teachers are not returning to campus?**

Teachers who live off campus and have access to reliable internet services are doing online teaching off campus. This is in order for us to be able to do online teaching for both on and off campus students. We do not have the bandwidth to have all classes online at the same time.

**If Waterford decides not to commence the transport service but we can bring the children to school, can they attend in the classroom side by side with boarders?**

The government has closed schools. We are only allowed to bring examination students onto our campus during the school day.

**Is vaccination compulsory?**

No

**For so long as learning is online can boarders choose to learn from home and only return if in-person learning resumes?**

While we encourage our boarders to remain on campus and trust that we are providing a 'home from home' learning environment, we respect the wishes of our parents/guardians and the decisions they make to be in the best interest of their child.

**If not, will there be activities at school e.g. physical and or other to keep them active and busy?**

Students who remain on campus as boarders are able to use the school's outdoor facilities out of class time. Apart from that, they are able to organize activities, as they would, irrespective of school closure as their place of abode.