

#ChildrensFuturesIRL Campaign



Our Five Urgent Asks Relating to the Government's 'Living With Covid Plan' 9 March 2021

- 1) Once schools are open, they are kept open in line with public health advice, and further closures are prevented.
- 2) A policy is developed and approved that will ensure that in-school provision continues to be available to all marginalised and vulnerable children, including Travellers and Roma, children living or at risk of poverty, and children with special educational needs, in line with other jurisdictions if public health requires school closures again in the future.
- 3) Clear plans are developed in advance on how to overcome delayed re-openings if Covid numbers increase, particularly for marginalised and vulnerable children, including Travellers and Roma, children living or at risk of poverty, and children with special educational needs, in third to sixth class in primary schools and for second-level students who won't yet have returned in the first phases of the reopening. Guidance and support need to be offered to marginalised groups, for whom home schooling has proved difficult, and who are not currently eligible under the first phase of reopening schools.
- 4) All interim solutions, particularly the enhanced, comprehensive 'programme of summer provision' is developed within weeks rather than months and offered to ALL children with an identified need with schools encouraged and supported to provide a school-based summer programme.
- 5) In its communications with the public, the Government continues to emphasise that school reopening is a priority and requires the ongoing adherence to Covid-19 measures by the public.

The #ChildrensFuturesIRL Campaign works with Government, education partners and others to secure a cross-party, cross-sector public commitment to prioritise reopening – and keeping open – schools in line with public health advice and to limit the negative impact of lockdown on a generation of children and young people. Current members include founding members AsIAm, Barnardos, Children's Rights Alliance, Inclusion Ireland, and National Parents Council Primary, as well as Pavee Point, Children's Books Ireland, Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Foróige, SpunOut.ie, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and UNICEF Ireland.