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Apr. 20, 2021 · 8 min read

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1. “What Is Happening Behind The Scenes In Irish Secondary Schools” (Part 2)

In Part 1, I looked at what is going on in schools from a teacher's perspective and how schools are implementing Covid rules and regulations.

New 🧵 1/39



2. In Part 2, it's the turn of parents and pupils. Some people may find this thread as distressing as part one if not more so. What is abundantly clear is the pain that parents and children are undergoing.

3. Thanks once again to [@irishsecondary](#) for the information. They have done sterling work.

Also a shout out to [@teenheard](#) as well for all the work they are doing

I have left everything in its original form as much as possible so hardly anything has been edited.

4. Parent - Hi there. My daughter is 13 years old and is in first year. She also has autism. School has been a nightmare for her this year due to masks. My daughter is very intelligent with no intellectual disability but struggles with receptive language.
5. She is dependent on seeing facial expressions for communication. With everyone's faces covered she cannot participate in conversations and so has not been able to make friends this year and cannot follow teachers in class and so is struggling to keep up.
6. Masks also force eye contact which distresses her as it does to many people on the spectrum. Her school understands and has been very kind to her but they are bound by the regulations. My daughter is terrified that masks will be necessary in second year as well and so am I.
7. Parent - Uniform policy, particularly in the winter with windows open. Son had one particular class (2 hours) where all windows open.
8. One student wore his own winter jacket, and teacher made him take it off as it was not uniform jacket (a lightweight fleece lined type of jacket) and he had to freeze. It was so cold many of the days the students couldn't move their fingers to use a pen.
9. My own son isn't even on the bellcurve for weight he is so skinny, I stopped sending him in on Fridays because of 2 hours in a freezing room. I then asked GP for a letter for flexibility on uniform, but I received no reply from school. Teachers can wear what they like.
10. Then recently they sent an email before recent return to in person schooling saying if you can't follow the uniform you can't be trusted with Covid rules and don't come to school despite shops and shoes being closed.
11. Access to bathroom very restricted, not allowed to go during breaks but if you ask during class teacher often says no. Can only talk to other kids in your bubble (so 2 others typically). Masks now during PE also, despite WHO advice saying not to do this.
12. It's so anxiety ridden I don't know how anyone can learn. My son is in first year new school, he has no normality by which to ensure secondary school but everyone in his class hates the school.
13. Parent - Hi I know of someone, a student, who has severe distress and headaches from wearing the masks and cannot return to school wearing one. The school in Louth has said she can do her work remotely but it is not an option to return without a mask or even with a visor.

14. I do not see in the guidelines where it states that visors are not acceptable instead of a mask. I do not feel however that the teachers or those above have any power, they are following strict protocols.

15. Parent - I have had to homeschool my 15 year old since Sept. He couldn't handle the masks. He's going to a new school in Sept.

16. He's terrified of me fighting the school on this issue so I've had to promise not to engage with the school. I want to do whatever I can though that ensure no masks by then.

17. Parent - Hi my son with autism is in 3rd year, he wasn't able to participate in the online lessons at all and the school didn't care, he refused to go to school 3 days last week and said he feels so lost. They are doing exams all this week I think, as he has missed so much..

18...he can't participate, I feel he's been left behind & nothing is in place for students with learning disabilities that couldn't do online work. I could be wrong but it seems the school is only focused on continuation of work & those that couldn't participate are tossed aside

19. Parent - Hi There, I have a son in 1st year, we sent in an exemption for him however some teachers are still telling him he needs to wear a mask especially the P.E teacher, during exercise and told him if he doesn't he can't participate..

20..and one teacher said she doesn't feel safe with him in her class, he is being repeatedly asked, he wears a bandana loosely over his face and feels he has to play the game somewhat he is 13 years old. This is my experience thank you

21. Parent - Hi. My niece is asthmatic & received a letter of exemption (with some hesitation I might add) from her GP last year. She has been berated by Teacher's Principal even students for her refusal to wear a mask.

22. As she is Leaving Cert she returned after Easter again met with hostility by school staff & several phone calls made to her Mother. Their response was to force her to sit at the back of each classroom under a window with 3 screens around her

23. I admire her bravery for not backing down and the embarrassment of having to carry the screens around to each class. My own girl attends the same school in 4th year and says it like military school.

24. Parent - My 13 yr old has been shouted at by various teachers for allowing her mask to slip down below her nose. This is her first year in secondary school and hates it. She doesn't know what her classmates look like.

25. Her class have also been told by her form teacher that if they don't get the vaccine they won't be able to travel. That same teacher asked the class to put up their hands if they were an anti-vaxxer. Do 13 yr olds even know what this is?

26. Scandalous! She doesn't want me to complain in case she's bullied by either her peers or teachers.

27. Parent - Hi. My daughter has a learning disability, I fought with them about the mask, she has an illness as well. We came to an agreement about a visor. However my daughter suffers with anxiety due to the learning disability and is being treated badly at school.

28. She goes to school and comes home eats her dinner and sleeps until the morning, dealing with a learning disability and also wearing a mask is exhausting her, I am terrified it will trigger her disease again.

29. She nearly lost her last year. We can't go on like this. Our children's mental health and physical health is suffering, She also has a "breathing pass". But she won't use it because it makes her different.

30. I have been in that school multiple times mask less to collect her if she is feeling overwhelmed.

The staff in the office have no masks on alot a time. This has got to end. Thank you.

31. Parent - Hi there! Thanks for all your efforts! Im a parent of a seventeen year old boy in Cork. PE is being offered now but with masks!

32. They have been told that if when they are seen without masks up the village at lunchtime /on way to school/ leaving school/ , parent will be called to take home.

33. They also wear masks outside on breaks. Also all the usual "you will be sent home" if you forget your mask stuff. Very oppressive atmosphere, school here was always that way but far worse now!

34. Parent - My son in 5th year has a mask exemption from sept to dec last he was in school mask free, I got a call just before he was going back in March to inform me if he wants to be in school without a mask he will be put in a room alone with the lessons on zoom.

35. I've tried to fight the school on this and I didn't send him back for the first week but they will not back down. The principal is saying his hands are tied. He said he's had complaints about my son from teachers and parents for not being masked.

36. Pupil - Hello , I am a student in... Waterford,we are told we MUST wear masks outdoors at all times ,during Pe or lunch time regardless of if you are by yourself or socially distanced.

37. There is no doubt in my mind that teachers, parents and pupils are being turned against each other if they don't conform. This is no accident, it is quite deliberate. Children, parents and teachers are all being ostracised.

I repeat what I said yesterday

38. Schools are complicit by not standing up for their pupils against these draconian, Orwellian measures. An excuse of “We were only following orders” will never stand up.

They have a duty of care and are failing their pupils on every count

39. Please go back to the very 1st tweet and retweet. I would really appreciate it. We need as many people as possible to know what os going on behind the scenes and the best way to help out is by retweeting the 1st tweet. Many thanks.

Part 1 in case you missed it 👉



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@ThreadsIrish



1. "What Is Happening Behind The Scenes In Irish Secondary Schools" (Part 1)

I'm going to be very honest. This was a very difficult 📖 to write once you see what is going on.

When you have finished this 📖 please do return to this very 1st tweet to retweet. Thanks

New 📖 1/36



10:00 AM · Apr 19, 2021



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