

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to inform you that after consulting with GBNI and our church leadership, Lissara Girls’ Brigade will be starting back to face to face activities from 3rd November 6.45-7.30pm (Tinies/Explorer and Junior Section girls only) and 10th November 7.00-8.00pm (Senior and Brigader Section girls only). However, at present we will only be accepting girls who are in P1 and above.

GB as we know it, will be adapted around the current COVID-19 Secure guidelines to ensure that every GB member is kept safe whilst attending Girls’ Brigade.

I have reviewed the guidance from GBNI regarding restarting GB whilst managing COVID-19 and have also consulted with our church leadership regarding their required procedures. With this in mind, I have carried out a COVID-19 GB Management Risk Assessment and will now outline the steps being taken to support the safe return of face-to-face activities at GB.

**Managing COVID-19 Symptoms**

* **If your daughter or anyone in your household displays any symptoms or has a positive test result of COVID-19, please do not send your daughter to GB activities.** Your daughter must not return to GB until they are symptom free for at least 48 hours.
* If your daughter displays symptoms whilst at GB, you will be informed immediately and will need to come and collect them ASAP. They will be supervised in our isolation room whilst waiting for you to collect them.
* All GB members over the age of 11 with a mobile device should download the StopCOVID NI app and ensure their Bluetooth is turned on whilst at GB. Important to note that our GB policy on the use of mobile devices whilst at GB still applies.
* Contact tracing will be carried out by PHA and they will make contact directly. They will advise on testing and isolation procedures. According to the current guidance GB members are unlikely to be identified as a close contact, however, if your daughter tests positive and you wish to let me know directly you can do so. With your permission, I will let parents of the girls within your daughter’s bubble know of a positive case as some families may have vulnerable people at home. Please be assured that no names or personal information will be shared.

**Travelling to and from GB**

* We would discourage the use of shared transport at this time between two or more households. Where possible, girls should travel to and from GB in their own family vehicle.

**Arrival and departure**

* Explorer and Junior Sections 6.45-7.30pm
* Senior and Brigader Sections 7.00-8.00pm
* Girls should be dropped off at the main door of the hall and collected from the side door of the hall (fire exit door of the hall.)
* Where possible, please keep siblings who are not attending GB at home with another parent.
* If a queue is formed during drop-off and pick-up, please social distance for one metre from other households.
* Please do not hang around and chat to other parents, blocking exit routes or gates for other families. Face coverings must be worn.
* At this time, we have to limit the number of people that can enter the premises so please do not enter the hall.

**Hygiene and Cleaning**

* Please ensure your daughter washes her hands with soap for 20 seconds before attending GB. Reinforce the message to ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’.
* Please ensure your daughter uses the toilet at home before coming to G.B.
* Girls will sanitise their hands on arrival.
* The hall, main touch points and toilets will be cleaned between sessions.
* We will be limiting the use of shared equipment.

**Social distancing**

* One way system into and out of the hall will be used during arrival and pick up times.
* Sections will be kept in bubbles within their own areas in the hall/church.
* As far as possible, all leaders and girls aged 11 and over are to remain one metre away from all other leaders and girls whilst wearing face coverings.
* Girls will be discouraged from hugging or holding hands with each other.
* Please ensure that your daughter is aware that they are not to congregate in areas such as toilets, entrance areas or outside spaces for long periods of time.

**Face coverings**

* It is compulsory that leaders and girls aged 11 and over wear face coverings whilst at GB.
* If face coverings are removed, they should be disposed of or if it is a reusable covering, it should be put into a sealed bag and not reused. A clean unused face covering should then be applied when necessary.
* Those who have a physical, mental illness or impairment, or a disability that means that they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering are exempt. Please inform me if your daughter is exempt.
* Face visors are not sufficient coverings on their own and should be worn alongside a suitable face covering.

**Other measures in place**

* If your child requires it, please send a filled, named water bottle with them. No food should be brought to GB unless required for medical purposes.
* As normal we will have a record of attendance each week. This record may now also be used to aid Test, Trace and Protect procedures if we are contacted by PHA.

**Programme arrangements**

* Junior, Senior and Brigader girls only will require a Bible and a pen. Please discourage girls from bringing in any unnecessary items such as toys or food.
* All national and district events and competitions are suspended until further notice from GBNI.
* **At present, we plan to alternate Section meetings as follows:-**

**3rd November - Explorer and Junior Sections 6.45-7.30pm**

**10th November - Senior and Brigader Sections 7.00-8.00pm**

**17th November - Explorer and Junior Sections 6.45-7.30pm**

**24th November - Senior and Brigader Sections 7.00-8.00pm**

**1st December - Explorer and Junior Sections 6.45-7.30pm**

**8th December - Senior and Brigader Sections 7.00-8.00pm**

**This will be reviewed in the new year and I will keep you up to date.**

**Registration**

* To manage group sizes, we need to know if your daughter intends on returning to face to face GB activities in November. Please let us know in advance by completing an online Registration and Consent form using the link that will follow this letter.
* Before completing the registration form, please refer to gbni.co.uk/our-policies to review our Safeguarding Policy for parents.
* If your daughter is classed as vulnerable, please confirm if they are returning to face-to-face activities by contacting me using the details below. If they are not yet able to return, we can then discuss suitable options for them to remain involved in GB activities.
* When completing the form, please ensure to highlight any additional needs/care your daughter might need to support their return to face-to-face GB activities.
* Fees –£20 per girl (£15 per girl paid to GB Headquarters for insurance etc. and the remainder will be used for craft resources/activities/badges etc.)
* Fees should be paid online into the Lissara GB account which is held with Ulster Bank, Downpatrick using the Account No. 12282349 and Sort Code 98-05-40. Please put your daughter’s name alongside the payment. Please text me when you make a payment to assist with reconciliation.

**Uniform**

* At present official GB Uniform is not required.
* Explorers should wear a warm hoodie or fleece with leggings or tracksuit bottoms and trainers.
* Juniors, Seniors and Brigades should wear their GB navy sweatshirt or hoodie if still suitable or another warm hoodie or fleece with leggings or tracksuit bottoms and trainers.
* Should you wish to purchase a new GB Hoodie (Junior, Senior and Brigader Sections only) sizes available are- 9-11 years, 12-13 years Cost £15. S, M, L ladies. Cost £20. Please contact us if you require a new hoodie and I will place as a bulk order (minimum order of 6 hoodies required). I would ask that hoodie payments are also made online to our GB Account (details within registration section above.)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you again very soon!

Best wishes,

Lyndsey Beggs (Captain)