

Addendum to Behaviour Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19, ready for re-opening of the whole school in September 2020.



Introduction

The government's strategic response to COVID-19 was to enforce social distancing in order to reduce people's exposure to the virus and stall its spread. As a result, from 20th March 2020, schools were closed to all pupils except for those classified as vulnerable, those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and children of key workers critical to the COVID -19 response.

During their prolonged absence from school, pupils have suffered from significant changes to their learning routines, daily structure, social and behavioural norms. The school may now feel different to children, compared to how it was when they last attended. We want our children to be happy, in pleasant and relaxed surroundings. We know that they will learn best when they are clear about what they are expected to do given the changes as a result of COVID-19. Furthermore, we are aware that COVID-19 has the potential to impact on the mental health of pupils and their family members; this in turn can affect a pupil's behaviour.

Culture is created in our school by establishing behavioural expectations and ensuring that these are taught explicitly to ensure that the school is a calm, happy and purposeful environment where learning can take place. We are re-setting the culture in response to the enforced COVID-19 disruption by introducing new behavioural expectations and routines, around protective measures and personal hygiene.

This addendum supplements the current Behaviour Policy. It identifies the minimum behavioural expectations that are expected during the coronavirus pandemic.

Guiding Principles

- **Behaviour will be taught**, including our new routines for entering school, hand washing, social distancing between peers and the teacher. All staff are responsible for ensuring the rigorous and consistent application of our new procedures across school.
- **Proactive risk assessment will reduce the potential for poor behaviour.** We will endeavour to anticipate risks rather than simply reacting to situations.
- **Communication to pupils will build their confidence.** We will ensure that appropriate and effective measures are in place for communicating with pupils about their expected behaviour upon returning to school. This will be tailored so that it is age appropriate and takes account of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. We know that this will help to build a safe and calm culture in which pupils will feel secure. Clearly established rules, routines and boundaries will be consistently applied.

- **Parents will be fully informed.** We will ensure that appropriate and effective measures are in place for communicating with parents about the expected behaviour to be shown by pupils upon returning to school. The school will encourage parents to share concerns and ask questions. We aim to build confidence with parents about the safe reopening of school.
- **Boundaries will be clear.** We will continue to use our three behavioural expectations which are already familiar to pupils; Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. Through these we will teach pupils that they have a responsibility to keep themselves and others safe. We will apply our rules consistently, rigorously and fairly so that pupils know that the consequences of their behaviours, both positive and negative, are inevitable.
- **Vulnerable pupils remain a key focus group** (including those with a social worker, those who are disabled, those with an EHCP or those who require additional support).
- **Leaders and governors will ensure that the guidance from the DfE and Public Health England is meticulously followed.**

Expected behaviours – How we do things now

Bubbles: When the full school opens in September 2020, pupils will be taught in consistent class or key stage groups. These groups or ‘bubbles’ will remain together for their time on the school site, in lessons and during social times.

Transport to school: We ask that public transport is limited as much as possible. We ask that wherever possible children are brought to school by 1 adult.

Arrival at school: We ask that parents and children entering and leaving school do so using their bubble’s allocated entrances and use our one way system around the school grounds, in through the main gate, keeping left and out through the bottom gate.

Pupils will arrive at staggered times and we ask parents try to stick to these times rigidly to prevent children from different bubbles coming into contact. We ask that parents do not gather around the entrance to the school in groups. If parents have children with different start times, we appreciate the difficulty and ask that when one child has been dropped off they keep moving through the one way system, back into school if necessary.

We would like the entry to school to be a positive and welcoming start to the day. Members of the school team will be present to welcome children to school, ease anxieties and to ensure that social distancing is applied where possible.

We are trying to limit the amount of things brought in and out of school. Children will need to bring their own water bottle into school each day, packed lunches if required and coats. PE kits can be brought into school and left for the half term. Other than that we will send books and homework home when required.

Entering school / Lining up: Pupils will socially distance when lining up where possible (we understand that this will be more difficult with younger children). This will be achieved through staff support and markings. Children will enter wherever possible through external doors straight into their teaching area. Lining up will create a calm and controlled start to the day and staff members will be able to stagger entry to ensure hygiene measures are adhered to. Children will use hand sanitiser at the school door and then after putting down coats and packed lunches, they will wash their hands before starting activities. After breaktimes children will always wash their hands when re-entering the building.

Movement around the school: Non-essential movement around the school will be avoided. Staggered break times and lunchtimes will ensure that different bubbles of children do not mix. Children are likely to pass children from other bubbles in the corridors, however this is compliant with government guidance as the time when they are in close contact will be minimal, as long as all children adhere to the expectations that we are putting in place. Children will use their external classroom doors to leave and enter, wherever possible. There will be no school assemblies.

Classroom expectations: In classrooms from Y2 upwards, desks will be forward facing. As full classes are returning in September, we will not have the room to socially distance within the classroom. Staff members will have their own allocated space at the front of the class, which they will try to maintain, particularly if visiting other classrooms. Teachers will move around the classroom, but will try to maintain distance or stay in closer proximity for short periods of time (less than 15 mins). Children will be expected to remain in their seat, where they will have their own pack of resources for their exclusive use. They will not be able to wander around the classroom or borrow equipment from other children.

We appreciate that this will look different in the classes with our younger pupils. From nursery – year 1, children will be moving more freely around their settings and accessing different areas for learning. Regular supervised hand washing will take place throughout the day.

Exiting the classroom: Staff recognise the importance of a controlled exit. This will be rehearsed and modelled to make expectations clear. Children will be instructed not to wait for friends.

Break times / lunch times: Arrangements will be staggered to reduce risk and maintain social distancing measures. Pupils will spend their break times with pupils from their bubble, in a zoned area allocated to their group. They will not have free access to all of the school grounds, which may be in use by other bubbles. Children will wash hands before eating. Pupils in N,R, Y1 will eat their dinner in the hall. All other year groups will eat their dinner in their classrooms.

End of school: Pupils will leave their classroom area in a rehearsed manner. They will wash hands, or use hand sanitiser. They will leave using their external classroom door, wherever possible. Children will be dismissed from their bubble, using staggered finish times. Children will be encouraged not to wait for friends. We ask that parents and children follow our one way system, using the appropriate gates for entry and exit.

Pupil Behaviour Expectations: Be respectful. Be responsible. Be safe.

- Arrive to school and leave to go home at the designated time entering through the main gate, using our one way system staying left and exiting through the opposite gate.
- Do not wait around for friends and do not group together with people outside of your family.
- Wash hands effectively with soap or use sanitiser every time you enter the school and after each lesson within the day.
- There must be no physical contact of any type at any time. This includes in play, hugging, handshakes, tigs. (We understand that this will be very difficult with our youngest children).
- Ensure that you 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when you cough or sneeze and avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.
- There must be no coughing or spitting at or towards any other person.
- The seating in the classroom is non-negotiable and is in place for the safety of each pupil. Stick to the seating plan. Do not move tables or chairs and do not leave your seat without speaking to the teacher (Y2 and above)
- Maintain a safe distance from others when lining up and around school.
- Stay left in the corridors and do not stop and talk with children from different bubbles when moving around school.
- At break times and lunch times, stick to your zone area and maintain a safe distance from others where possible.
- Do not share belongings (food, stationary, books etc) with other and do not handle other people's belongings.
- Do not enter the toilets if there are children from different bubbles. Only enter the toilets if there is nobody else in or if the other children are from your own bubble. If this is not possible wait outside. Wash hands thoroughly after using the toilets.
- Do not bring into school unnecessary items from home.
- You must tell a teacher if you are feeling unwell, particularly if you feel that you have a high temperature, a continuous cough or are experiencing a change to your usual taste or smell.

Behaviour Management

There are occasions when staff members will need to challenge behaviours which are not safe or not conducive to learning. We will continue to use the sanctions identified within the body of our main behaviour policy.

Deliberate failure to adhere to the protective measures will be deemed as a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy.

Coughing or spitting at or towards any other person will be deemed as a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy. Any pupil who does this will need a risk assessment to establish whether they are able to remain in school.

Reasonable Adjustments

Leaders and teachers, with the support of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) will be mindful of pupils' individual needs when issuing praise or sanctions for behaviours and when considering the impact of the new behavioural expectations.

Staff will make their best endeavours to ensure that pupils with additional needs are supported in understanding and accepting the changes to their school setting and the new expectations. Reasonable adjustments might include, but not limited to; additional support for the arrival and exit to school, additional support to adhere to break and lunch time expectations, re-teaching of behavioural expectations and adapted sanctions and rewards.

Use of reasonable force

We will continue to use the school's main behaviour policy in relation to use of reasonable force.

The school does not encourage a 'no contact' policy as there is a real risk that such a policy might place a member of its staff in breach of their duty of care towards a pupil, or prevent them taking the necessary action to prevent a pupil causing harm.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is a subject to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. If an alternative method is possible, then this method will be used first. If physical contact is the only suitable method, then this is permitted during this period.

A risk assessment will be undertaken for pupils, based on evidence prior to school closure, who may require physical intervention. This will allow the school to determine risks and decide if it is safe for pupils requiring physical intervention to be safely accommodated within school.

Review and adaptation

Leaders will keep the arrangements detailed in this addendum under review, particularly if the risks of Covid increases. Risk assessments for individual pupils will be monitored by relevant pastoral staff. Amendments to operational procedures will be made as required and will be clearly communicated to all staff and pupils. A thorough review of the addendum will be undertaken should there be further periods of partial/full closure due to further Coronavirus outbreaks.