

COVID ADDENDUM TO BEHAVIOUR POLICY

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The purpose of this short policy is to identify any changes which may need to be accommodated during the additional restrictions caused by Covid-19. This addendum to the behaviour policy will apply during the period we are still at an alert level.

OVERVIEW

Our school Compelling Behaviour policy outlines how we want our pupils to manage their behaviours and how staff will implement the policy. This remains the overarching document. However, during Covid-19 there are additional measures that will be put into place. These are outlined below.

Most pupils have not attended school for six months. It is to be expected, therefore, that they will need reminding of school rules and expectations. High expectations need to be re-established as a matter of urgency. In addition, pupils will need to be educated regarding the new procedures in place to support the safety of staff and pupils. Staff will need to implement these firmly and clearly, reiterating why we are having to do this – it is not the risk to them individually, but rather the risk they can pose to others. It is important that we do this with due regard to the value we place on positive relationships.

In terms of physical distancing, pupils should be reminded to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. Where it is identified that pupils are deliberately flouting physical distancing rules, the one-way system and other measures to ensure pupil and staff safety, this should be addressed at the point it occurs, with clear reminders as to why it is important we modify our behaviours. Our learning behaviours of showing kindness, showing empathy, being responsible, being curious and taking positive action are key to the language we must use.

We will be implementing the new system on SIMS from the first day back and this will also be used during the online sessions:

Ensuring pupils keep themselves and others safe

- Staff must regularly remind pupils about the importance of good hand hygiene and be reminded that it protects others and their families.
- Pupils must protect others by wiping down their desk at the end of the lesson.
- Pupils must protect others by wiping down and clearing where they have eaten after breakfast club, break time and dinner time.
- Pupils should sit in the seating plan determined by their teacher to support the NHS Test, Track and Trace requirements.
- If pupils do not demonstrate their empathy for others through supporting the actions in place, this should initially be addressed at the point it occurs through **explaining** and **reiterating calmly** why these measures are in place and how it relates to our key learning behaviours of showing empathy and being responsible.
- If there is a pattern of behaviours which suggests an individual is not showing empathy for others or being responsible, please discuss with Form Tutor and also email SLT directly.¹

Physical contact

We must accept that pupils will find it hard to physically distance. The more time we spend with each other, the more comfortable we become with each other and the more likely our awareness of the 1m guidance reduces. This applies to adults as well as children.

¹ It is important SLT are emailed directly within the first couple of weeks although this may be revised once we have a clearer picture of how pupils are adjusting to the new practices.

We are all faced with a situation as well whereby pupils are not being expected to physically distance whilst they are in the classroom or sat having lunch – we therefore are expecting them to do one thing in their social time, whilst not expecting it in the classroom as the DfE guidance does not allow for us to have children sat 1m apart. They may not understand the nuances of the bubbles.²

We must therefore calmly explain and reiterate the following:

- Why they must follow the one way system.
- Why they should avoid all physical contact including handshakes, hugging etc.
- Why they need to stay in their bubbles whilst inside, and when playing outside they need to remain in groups of no more than 6, definitely in their year groups and ideally in their bubbles.

This is not going to be easy and we need to recognise this – reminding rather than shouting, and explaining why we have to do it for the benefit of others and others' families.

Shouting

It is suggested that shouting or singing loudly increases the risk of transmission. With this in mind we need to explain this to pupils and reiterate the need for walking around swiftly, safely and as quietly as possible so that we can protect each other.

Mixing with other year groups

There are some individual pupils who have close friends in other year groups who they spend their social time with and who have few friends in their own year group. This will be a challenge and the mentors are best placed to support these pupils. It is important that we speak individually with these pupils and we identify who they are with the named member of staff speaking to them prior to their return and checking in for their welfare. If needs be, we can accommodate some very small group mixing of years but this would have to be within the confines of additional needs provision, it can't take place in the Heartspace.

Sanctions

There is no reason why faculties cannot set detentions or Senior Detention does not take place but if they are mixed year groups, they need to be physically distanced by 1m.

Reflection Room

This can run if required as long as the hygiene measures are taken as outlined in the Covid Health and Safety Assessment.

Lateness to lessons

It may be that due to the new one way restrictions, we have to be flexible in the way we mark children if they are late. During the phased induction, we will be responsive and if we feel we need to, we may make a decision for lessons on F floor to finish 5 minutes early to stagger the movement around the building.

Use of toilets

Toilets do not have to be designated for one year group. We will explain to pupils that all cubicles can be occupied, however, there should be no more than three pupils in the wash basin area. Any

² In KS3 – pupils are in bubbles of 90; in KS4 bubbles of year groups.

other pupils waiting to use the toilet can queue up outside with social distancing. It is important we explain this to pupils in detail and give the reasons why we are doing this.

Equipment

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books, can be used and shared within a year group. Where possible, such resources should be cleaned regularly.

Resources that are shared between year groups, such as sports, art and science equipment should be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between year groups, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different year groups.

It is still recommended that students limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as lunch boxes, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed. Our mobile phone policy is unchanged and we can take them off pupils and ensure we wash our hands thoroughly afterwards. There is no change to the list of prohibited items identified in the behaviour policy.

Uniform and outdoor clothing

Government guidance makes it clear that a return to usual dress codes is expected in September. However, we have to take our context into account and the fact we have provided a significant amount of summer shirts to pupils in Year 6 and throughout the school. This has been for families who may have been shielding or whose circumstances mean it is difficult to purchase uniform. Therefore, we will be allowing summer shirts to be worn until at least October half term. Pupils can wear blazers with these summer shirts or can wear a plain black top underneath to keep themselves warm. If they are wearing a shirt and tie, they must wear their blazer.

The expectations around trousers and black footwear remain, however, we will not be insisting pupils take out a nose ring if they come to school wearing one because of hygiene reasons. We will instead make contact with home if any pupil has a nose ring and ask them to have it removed. We will have to be persistent and reinforce the importance of their responsibility to others.

Outdoor clothing is still not allowed in school although to prevent clustering at the pupil entrance we will ask pupils to take hoodies and outdoor clothes off as they are walking to their form room. They must have removed them by the time they arrive at their form room. If all pupils have bags, which we will reinforce and which they need to take equipment and books home, they can place their hoodies and coats in their bags. We will not be able to keep items of clothing in classrooms for our tutor groups or confiscate them from pupils.

When pupils have PE we will allow pupils to come in their PE kit to minimise the pressures and the distancing within the changing rooms. Whilst this is not ideal, until such time as physical distancing reduces to less than 1m for pupils, it is wise to do this. We will still ask pupils to wear washed PE kit if they forget their kit but will make sure it is rotated i.e. not used for 48 hours after it has been washed. We may requisition some spare PE kit for Year 7 rather than purchasing from the shop.

We do still have high expectations of students in terms of uniform (shirts should be tucked in, although not summer shirts; ties should be a reasonable length) and we will follow up uniform infringements as we have done in the past. Heads of Year will be mindful and considerate in relation

to any families who may be experiencing financial pressures and school will purchase items for pupils where appropriate.

Exclusions from school

The exclusion policy within school is stringent in ensuring that the exclusion is objectively considered, an emotive response is not given and no individual or group of pupils are unfairly disadvantaged.

During Covid there will still be times when it is appropriate to exclude a child from school for either a Fixed Term or Permanent Exclusion. The Exclusion policy and Compelling Behaviour Policy outline the reasons which could lead to be a child being excluded. During Covid it has been agreed with the Secondary Headteachers and the Local Authority's Fair Access team that an exclusion will always be given for:

- Spitting or coughing deliberately on a member of staff; and/or pretending they have Coronavirus and using this as a threat to intimidate.
- This will be recorded as a Physical Assault on a member of staff or pupil.

When presented with an exclusion for any reason, the Headteacher will always consider if this has been exacerbated by issues related to lockdown and what support has been in place for the child during lockdown and on return to school before making a decision if to exclude.