

## **Behaviour Policy: Covid-19 Addendum – Guidance**

Schools in the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust promote and expect positive behaviour at all times, recognising that this is fundamental to the safety of children, staff and visitors to the school, as well as crucial to enabling children to live life in all its fullness (John 10). In line with the Church of England vision for Education, we recognise the role we have in educating for hope and aspiration, and that in order to do this we should guide pupils so that they can 'cope wisely with things and people going wrong and understand that bad experiences and behaviour need not have the last word'. This addendum to the behaviour policy sets out how we can do this during the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst welcoming more pupils back to school.

The principles as set out in the Bishop Martin Behaviour Policy remain and should continue to be followed. This addendum should not be used as a standalone document and should be read in conjunction with the existing policy. It sets out the expectations of Bishop Martin in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for pupils to behave differently when they return to school. It describes the new systems in place and how pupils will be supported to adhere to them. At the heart of all decisions is our desire to maintain the care, welfare, safety and security of everyone, staff as well as pupils.

This addendum follows the advice and guidelines provided by the DFE.

### **We expect pupils to:**

- keep their distance from adults and other children wherever possible – using the markers on the floor to help guide this.
- sanitise hands when entering school and leaving school and then wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds each time throughout the day (hand sanitiser stations have been made available throughout school).
- follow instructions regarding who they can socialise with at school, staying in their POD at all times.
- move around the school as instructed, using the signs to help them.
- try to follow 'catch it, bin it, kill it' by sneezing/coughing into tissues, disposing of them safely in the bins provided and washing/sanitising their hands immediately. Pupils must avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with their hands.
- tell a member of staff (if in school) or parents/carers (if at home) if they are experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus (in particular – fever, continuous cough, loss of taste and smell).
- only use their own water bottles and equipment.
- only play in areas specified by school – some areas will be off-limit or have been sectioned off for specific PODs to play in that area e.g. playground zones.
- use their designated toilets and follow instructions from their teacher or another adult in school to ensure social distancing and correct hygiene can be maintained.
- understand that if any pupil coughs or spits at, or towards, any other person they will be sent home immediately.
- to follow the online safety rules, when learning at home.

### **All pupils will be supported in the following ways:**

- Signs/posters/visual prompts to remind pupils and staff of the new safety measures in place that should be followed.
- All adults will explain new routines sensitively and help pupils to feel safe and reassured by the rules in place.
- The new routines and expectations will be explained and repeated by the class teacher every day and throughout the day. This will reassure all pupils and particularly the most

anxious.

- All adults will explain hygiene rules sensitively every day and provide reminders throughout the day.
- Whilst new expectations are established, we will focus on routines, safety and well-being rather than academic challenge.
- An age appropriate strategy for pupils to share their concerns e.g. a worry box will be available in every POD so that concerns can be shared and managed every day.
- School staff will have due regard to families and pupils who are classified as clinically vulnerable so that appropriate additional support is put in place.
- All our usual systems for affirming pupils' good behaviours will continue e.g. following the school's code of conduct.
- Pupils who, for any reason, are not managing to follow our school rules and expectations will receive reminders to help with their understanding. We will communicate with parents to ensure there is a holistic and empathetic approach.
- If, despite all appropriate support and guidance, a pupil repeatedly breaks our current safety rules, the Headteacher may, as a last resort, consider alternative arrangements or \*exclude a pupil either for a fixed period or permanently.

*\*Due to COVID-19, temporary changes have been made to the DfE regulations to some of the procedures that must be followed in relation to an exclusion (please follow the link below):*

[DFE – CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL EXCLUSION PROCESS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK](#)

#### **Support for pupils who have additional or special educational needs:**

- Pupils will have their individual risk assessment reviewed in respect of the new circumstances.
- If there are concerns that appropriate support is not possible during this period, despite best endeavours, a meeting will be held with parents (and relevant external professionals) to discuss next steps and what additional adaptations may be possible to ensure the pupil can manage their behaviour safely.

#### **We expect teachers to:**

- recognise and praise pupils' excellent behaviour.
- speak to pupils individually in order to check their wellbeing and understanding.
- reinforce the importance of rules and procedures that will keep children safe.
- consistently apply the school behaviour policy, including this addendum, in its entirety

#### **We ask that parents:**

- Follow the new system for dropping off and picking up from school: only one adult to accompany child/ren, to drop their child off at the gate.
- Support the school in explaining the new procedures and reinforcing the new routines.
- Contact the school if a child or member of the family exhibits symptoms and follows guidance for self-isolating.

#### **Positive Touch and Physical Intervention**

There may be times when a pupil's behaviour requires staff to use physical intervention to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff and that property is not seriously damaged.

**In this circumstance,** Bishop Martin will be guided by the following principles:

- Given the current pandemic, staff will need to consider the possible risk of infection if they physically intervene, contrasted with the possible risks of infection should they not

intervene.

- Any decisions made should be in accordance with Public Health and Government guidelines on Covid-19.
- Advice remains firmly focused on restraint reduction. The emphasis is on de-escalation, reducing triggers, and early interventions to manage risk.
- When deciding to use restrictive interventions, any such restriction must be a last resort, reasonable, and proportionate action.
- Staff need to ensure their decisions consider the risks of doing something contrasted with the risks of doing nothing.
- Bishop Martin will continue to explore non-restrictive alternatives that maximise safety and minimise harm at the point of risk behaviour.
- At the heart of all decisions is our desire to maintain the care, welfare, safety and security of everyone, staff as well as pupils.

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