

Appendix to St Joseph's Behaviour Policy - in response to Covid 19 and phased reopening of schools

June 2020

This addendum is to be used in conjunction with and alongside our Behaviour Policy. The rationale behind its creation is to ensure that the children and staff at St Joseph's RC Primary School act in a manner that fully supports the very necessary safety measures that have been put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rigorous hygiene arrangements are in place and social distancing measures in classrooms, corridors and in the playground. All of these measures are part of the risk assessment and specific measures for particular parts of the school are communicated to pupils verbally and in written procedures. This appendix outlines some of the additions to the behaviour policy at this time. The current behaviour policy remains in place.

Uniform

Uniform has been relaxed during this period. Pupils are to wear their own clothes that are practical for school and suitable for outdoor activities. This is so clothes can be changed daily. PE kit is not required.

Arrivals, Departures and Moving round the school.

Children will enter school through their designated entrance. Children will enter individually and will go straight to their designated bubble, keeping a 2m distance from individuals.

At their designated home time, children will leave the building from their designated exit. They will leave one at a time when their parent has come to collect them, again keeping their distance.

Movement around the school will be limited. When the children leave their bubble classroom to go outside for break, lunch or outdoor learning, they try and stay 2m from peers and adults and within their bubble group.

Hygiene and use of toilets

Children will be expected to follow all handwashing and hygiene routines while in school. Children will wash hands/use antibacterial gel before entering school, before and after eating and at regular intervals during the day. We ask children to follow the catch it, bin it, kill it, mantra when in school, if they need to cough or sneeze, they should use a tissue or crook of their arm. Children will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes while at school.

Should a child refuse to follow these routines, disciplinary procedures and sanctions will be used

Each bubble will have their own allocated toilets to use. These will be sign posted. Children will be encouraged to use the toilets one at a time (this may not always be possible with nursery and reception children).

Social distancing and Play Spaces

Pupils will need to follow new bubble rules to avoid contact with each other, in limiting the sharing of resources and in staying in designated areas for play. These rules will be applied in an age appropriate way, as we recognise that social distancing for young children is very difficult. Older pupils will need reminders not to play contact games and they will be given ideas and equipment to play with within their groups. Failure to follow this guidance will result in the behaviour consequences being applied in the usual way. If pupils do not stay in their designated areas and try and mix with other groups, then parents will need to be informed. Government guidance is clear that schools are only safe to reopen if pupils are in groups of no more than 15 and stay in those groups throughout the day.

Confiscation of items

Pupils and parents will be given clear guidance before pupils return to school as to what is allowed to be brought from home. Water bottles and hats or caps are necessary. Packed lunch boxes are allowed if stored in their group bubble. Reading books and homework will not be in place.

If children bring in any other items from home the teacher will keep them securely until the end of the day and contact the parents.

Deliberate coughing or spitting

If any pupil does this as a deliberate act towards another child or an adult, they will be referred to the Headteacher who will contact the parents and arrange for the child to be excluded. This is in line with the approach that all of the Hartlepool maintained schools are taking, including Springwell School. This does not apply to children with SEND who, due to their needs, may bite, lick or make regular oral contact with surfaces, objects and/or other people since it is possible to expect and monitor this and to thereby minimise (or even completely neutralise) contamination. It is extremely unlikely that we should need to apply this as children in this group do not usually deliberately spit – it is usually in response to being held. Given that every effort will be made not to use physical restraint by further adapting the curriculum and reducing the academic demands put on children then this should not be required. Risk assessments will be in place for children who this could apply to and reviewed regularly.

Team Teach

Team Teach is a technique which trained staff can use as a last resort if a pupil's or another's safety has become a concern. In this current time it will be avoided if at all possible. If it is deemed necessary, the pupil will be taken to a quiet area of school and parents will be immediately contacted. The situation will then be reviewed by the Headteacher and a decision of whether the onsite education offer will be withdrawn in favour of the online/virtual offer if this is deemed safer for all pupils and staff.

Where a child may need very close contact it is imperative that parents know that the use of PPE where appropriate WILL be used to help avoid cross contamination or any potential virus spread.

Rewards

School staff welcome opportunities to praise individuals for good work, attitude or behaviour. Above all praise and encouragement should be used whenever possible.

Sanctions:

If a child's behaviour is deemed high risk, for example, refusing to adhere to safety measures, such as, hand washing, social distancing, remaining in their bubbles or deliberate behaviours that put themselves or others at risk, such as spitting or deliberately coughing at people. The following sanctions and disciplinary procedures could be used:

1. Reminders of rules
2. Loss of part of break or lunchtime
3. Loss of break /lunchtime
4. Referral to Headteacher
5. Parents/Carers called to discuss behaviours
6. Parents/Carers called to collect child from school immediately
7. Immediate swap from onsite education offer to online/work packs education offer
8. Fixed term exclusion
9. Permanent exclusion