

## St. Brigid's School Engagement and Behaviour Policy COVID-19 Addendum



This is a temporary addendum to our main policy in response to the reopening of schools during the COVID -19 Pandemic and refers to COVID-19 specific behaviours only. The school will continue to use the current policy for all non-covid19 related behaviours

### Aims

1. Our aim at St.Brigid's School is to provide a **safe learning environment** for pupils and staff during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ensuring the health and safety and welfare of all children within the limitations of the government guidance and our best endeavours to respond to it in all faith and due diligence.
2. We wish pupils to understand the importance of keeping themselves, their peers, staff and their families safe
3. We believe that pupils respond best in an environment where they understand the rules and staff explain new routines explicitly

### Our School's Expectations

Our environment has needed to be radically altered to offer the safest operating procedures for pupils and staff which may not be those best designed for optimal learning or wellbeing but are in accordance with government guidance issued.

Our school expectations still underpin everything we do, but to ensure our school community is as safe as possible these now include now include the following:

- **Arrive and leave school only at your allocated entrance**
- **Wash hands using soap thoroughly on arrival to school and at other points throughout day, especially before eating and as directed by an adult.**
- **Use hand sanitiser if hand washing not practical, as directed by adult**
- **Follow the modified layout and systems of movement around the school**
- **Follow the 2M distancing guidance around school wherever possible**
- **Do not touch or hug other adults or pupils**

- **Try not to touch your face with your hands, especially your mouth, nose and eyes.**
- **If you need to cough or sneeze use a tissue and then put it in the bin. If you don't have a tissue, then cough or sneeze into your elbow/ upper arm. Immediately wash your hands.**
- **Tell an adult straight away if you feel unwell or have been coughing quite a lot.**
- **Do not share equipment, drinks bottles, food, cutlery or plates and cups etc**
- **Follow instructions about staying within your allocated group even if you have friends you want to be with in another group outside, in the dining room or anywhere else in school.**
- **Only use the toilet when an adult tells you it is safe to do so. Flush the toilet after you've used it. If there is someone else in the toilet area or at the sinks you must stay 2m away from them. You must wash your hands thoroughly and dry them.**
- **You must NEVER spit or cough at anyone or anything. This is VERY DANGEROUS FOR OTHERS**
- **Only use the resources, equipment or apparatus in the classroom or outside that an adult tells you is safe to use.**

#### **Our staff will:**

- Promote the school values in and around school paying particular attention to explicitly teaching the specific safety rules at an age appropriate level as related to the virus
- Teachers will explicitly teach the behaviours they want to see and the new routines that will support this.
- Plan lessons to reinforce the social distancing and hygiene messages.

#### **Children will:**

- Follow the additional school rules related to COVID 19
- Be responsible for their own actions and their impact on others.
- Accept sanctions and be willing to be reflective to change behaviours
- Pupils will be explicitly told the consequences for behaviour that threatens the safety of others such as malicious or deliberate acts of transmission (e.g. spitting or coughing.)

## Communication with parents

- We shall share this addendum with parents before school starts.
- Parents are expected to support the school in this new approach.
- If a child is presenting extremely challenging behaviour, we will recommend that external assistance is sought to support them or parents work with the school to find a solution.
- Targets or a behaviour contract may be given or a behaviour contract signed between home and school.
- The support from parents that school will need during these unprecedented time will be shared on the school website

## Positive behaviours

in class	around the school
Follow adult direction Take off face masks before we enter school Wash our hands on arrival, after break, before eating and before going home Use hand sanitiser in the classroom whenever the adult asks Keep our hands away from our mouth Use a tissue or an elbow to cover our mouths when we cough or sneeze Tissues go in the bin (catch it, bin it, kill it)	Follow adult direction Keep our hands and feet to ourselves keep 2 metres from our classmates Only use the equipment that has been provided outside the classroom Use equipment safely Move calmly around the school
We do not move around the classroom without permission from the adult  Keep a 2m distance from others  Sit at our own desks  Leave our desks and equipment in the set position  Never leave the classroom without permission	Remain in our designated break areas (we cannot move between these)  Play non-contact games

## Inclusion

- Some pupils may require special adaptations to their classroom and outdoor environments in order to fully include and support them in school.

- It can be helpful for staff to explain any reasonable adjustments that have been made to other pupils in the class so they understand the reasons for different behaviour expectations when appropriate.

## Our Sanctions

Most of the sanctions in our Behaviour Watch system are still relevant; **however, at no point will any child be asked to join another group by leaving their classroom or join a multi –group detention.**

This will be adapted within their classroom setting wherever possible. They may be asked to take some time away from their group at the edge of the room or to leave the room to a designated safe space if absolutely necessary for safety and wellbeing of others.

**If a learner is having difficulty following our expectations in relation to Covid-19 we will follow the following levelled tiers of intervention and consequence**

<b>L 1</b>	<b>Education</b>	Explanation and reminders of behaviour rules/expectations stated to pupil and class in the context of Covid 19	Share learning resources / drinks / food bottles etc. against guidelines  Refusing to wash hands  Refusing to wash their desks / follow hygiene guidelines given by school – and shared with parents  Moving desk / moving to be closer to another pupil in class  Get up from their seats during a lesson  Jumping the dinner queue or similar - thus breaking social distancing guidelines  Not following the one-way system  Not following any altered routines for arrival or departure.
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<b>L 2</b>	Reminders and redirection	Reminder of rules restated, visual reminder to pupil and de-escalation strategies used – directed to the pupils not adhering to the expectation	A repeat of Level 1 following intervention will escalate to Level 2
<b>L 3</b>	Reminders and redirection	Referral to SLT for 1:1 discussion	<p>Repeatedly Move desk / moving to be closer to another pupil in class or getting up from their seats during a lesson</p> <p>Roaming at break / lunch / lesson time – against guidance given</p> <p>Refusing to stay within their class group</p>
<b>L 4</b>	Sanction	Time away to work in designated area with SLT	Further refusal to comply
<b>L 5</b>	Sanction	Removed by DHT or HT who will make an appointment to see the parents to discuss strategies to reengage the learners in the social distancing and hygiene requirements or the possibility of 1 day FT Exclusion	<p>Using Covid-19 as a threat to another pupil/member of staff</p> <p><b>Persistent unhygienic behaviour such as spitting, coughing or refusing to wash hands</b></p> <p>Repeatedly and <b>purposefully</b> ignoring social distancing and hygiene rules</p> <p>Repeatedly refusing to follow any altered routines including those for arrival, breaks and departure.</p>
<b>L 6</b>	Zero tolerance	<p>removed by DHT or HT, SLT Phone call home by HT to collect child,</p> <p>FTE Exclusion applied based on their own individual timetable</p> <p>FTE followed by a return to school meeting with the head Teacher – possible change of timetable/attendance pattern/home group</p>	<p><b>Extreme or persistent</b> Unhygienic behaviour such as spitting, refusing to wash hands</p> <p>Malicious threats to cough spitting in the faces of others</p> <p>Violent or aggressive behaviour which includes the threat and act of coughing spitting in the faces of others</p> <p>Spitting / choking in the face of a pupil / teacher</p> <p>Fighting / biting / aggressive towards other pupils which could cause transmission</p>

**Exclusions:**

If the behaviour of a child is such that a child is posing serious threat to the safety of others and the school has exhausted all strategies to reduce that risk, then exclusion remains an option. **Spitting or other physical actions aimed at another pupil or staff member as a deliberate act to harm and intimidate is a serious act, which for those of 10 and above can be classed as a criminal offence. This will be taken very seriously by the school and further action may be taken, if all other interventions fail.**

However, the head teacher would seek guidance from the Local Authority before carrying out an exclusion or more serious sanction as in the context of the virus, the safety of the pupil at home may also be seriously compromised and this risk should not be diminished, but viewed as part of the overall risk assessment for the child, taking on board the views and advice of all relevant stakeholders and agencies.