

Behaviour Expectations and COVID-19

Whilst a small number of children have remained in Child Care at St Clare's Catholic Primary School throughout the period of Lockdown, a greater number of children will now begin returning to school and formal education. Our existing Behaviour Policy will still provide our practical overall guide to promoting positive behaviour for children whilst in school. However, so that we can ensure as safe an environment as possible for all our children and staff under current conditions, there are several additions to the policy as set out below.

Social Distancing

Children will be supported to respect social distancing wherever possible. Staff will remind children of procedures and systems on a daily basis and explain why they are important to support infection control. Younger children and some with SEND may find this particularly challenging and require a social story or individual plan to support them. Teachers will work with parents as appropriate to support children who require further help in following social distancing. Teachers and teaching assistants know their children and will build on existing relationships with families to work together to find ways forward.

Where a child fails to support social distancing but does this unintentionally and does not put others at significant risk in doing so, then they will receive reminders regarding the rules. E.g. a child initiates a game of tag at playtime and touches their friend on the arm to encourage them to chase them. If this becomes a persistent issue, then the teacher will contact parents and work on a plan with them to support the child.

If a child intentionally fails to support social distancing and therefore put themselves or others at risk, then they will receive up to two warnings and the teacher and or headteacher will contact the family to find ways forward. An example of this may be a child in Reception Class repeatedly touches their friends on the cheek or a child in Y6 repeatedly moving to another child's work area to talk to them. Helping children to understand, in age appropriate terms, why this is so important will be the key and we are confident that working together as a team of parents, school and the children we can support children to be happy and as safe as possible in school.

If children lick, bite or spit at other children or staff this will be taken extremely seriously. Staff and pupil wellbeing is the priority and must be supported. Spitting and biting is never acceptable at school and certainly not intentionally spitting at or biting another person. Under COVID-19 this would certainly not be supporting infection control and social distancing. Any incident of this nature will be taken on an individual basis but is likely to involve the family of the child being informed immediately and the child who was spitting / biting children and/or staff being collected from school by their family. A careful risk assessment would then be put in place to assess how and under what circumstances and with what support the child could then return to school.

Infection Control

Children will also be expected to follow rules for movement and behaviours that may well break with our habitual or traditional ways of working in school. We understand that this is going to take time to get used to but that they are important, will be enforced and have been put in place to keep us all safe and well. These will include:

- Direction of travel around the inside and outside of the school building.
- Seating in classrooms.
- Frequency of handwashing.
- Restrictions on possessions that can be brought to and from school.
- Designated areas for play.
- Socialising and working with a very restricted group of children and adults.
- Behaviours surrounding hygiene such as coughing into the arm and using tissues and binning them safely.

Teachers will remind the children frequently about the expectations and we are confident that after their first week in school it will become easier. We are ensuring we are all following the same systems, and these can be extended once other year groups return to avoid confusion and provide routine.

If a child refuses to follow these expectations e.g. runs around the corridor in the wrong direction or refuses to wash their hands then this will be managed in an age appropriate manner and in partnership with parents. We know that some children are especially anxious about the return to school and we will work with everyone to reassure and quickly build routines that are easy to follow.

Parents or visitors who refuse to reflect social distancing or follow movement rules around the site will be banned from school site.

This additional amendment to the School Behaviour Policy will be reviewed frequently.