

June 2020

Addendum to School Behaviour Policy due to Covid19

We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back from year groups identified within government guidance as part of the phased re-opening of schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Whilst provision will be different to that which was enjoyed before the government instigated the national lockdown and closure of schools, pupils will still be safeguarded by the same but enhanced policies for safeguarding, child-protection, SEND and support for their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

In order to maintain a safe and orderly environment for our pupils and staff, within challenging circumstances, this addendum to our Behaviour Policy specifies how our schools will share expectations with pupils and their families and respond to breaches to our Behaviour Policy that put pupils and/or staff at risk with regards to their health, safety and/or wellbeing.

The attendance of pupils will be recorded and expectations will be in accordance with statutory government guidance and any updated temporary arrangements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

As referenced in The Dean Trust Risk Assessment and the school's associated Risk Assessment and opening plan, informing pupils, staff and families of our expectations regarding behaviour is paramount to ensure a safe environment and consistency of understanding and application.

We are mindful that certain behaviour sanctions outlined in our Behaviour Policy would not be appropriate at this time as social distancing and minimising the use of additional rooms and staffing must be avoided to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

Refusal to follow COVID-19 protection rules and other associated health and safety measures will be considered a breach of the school's behaviour policy.

Following behaviour expectations being shared and checked with pupils, any pupil who deliberately commits a serious or persistent breach of the COVID-19 protection rules will be sanctioned by the Headteacher. This sanction will involve the pupil being removed from their classroom into a safe and supervised place, contact with their parent made and a half-day or one day fixed-term exclusion being imposed. The duration is dependent on the time of the day that the behaviour breach took place. The pupil will then be invited in to attend a meeting (with adherence to social distancing and sanitisation guidelines) with their parent/carer on the following day or at the earliest opportunity that the parent/carer can attend, to discuss the incident. Parents/carers will be offered the opportunity to engage in a remote meeting.

A 'face-to-face' meeting, in person or remote, should take place within 48 hours of the pupil being excluded. Should the parent fail to attend the meeting then the Headteacher, or the senior leader with delegated responsibility, should telephone the parent to discuss the incident. The Headteacher, or senior leader with delegated responsibility, should then inform the parent/carer of their decision as to whether the pupil will be permitted to return to school. During any period of time that the pupil is at home, full access to remote learning provision will be provided and the pupil's participation monitored and feedback provided where appropriate.



Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the impact it has had on pupils and/or staff and the level of remorse shown by the pupil and family, a decision will be made by the Headteacher, or the senior leader with delegated responsibility from the Headteacher, as to whether the pupil can be reinstated to onsite provision.

If the Headteacher, following consultation with a Governor, who would ordinarily sit on that school's Governors' Behaviour Panel, deems that a reintegration of that pupil would cause significant risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and/or staff, then a decision will be made that the pupil's education will be supported remotely and the pupil will not be permitted to return to school during this period of phased partial opening.

If the Headteacher's decision is that the pupil cannot return to onsite school provision during this period of phased partial opening of schools, because of the pupil's behaviour putting the health, safety or wellbeing of others at risk, the parent/carer has the right to appeal this decision to the Chair of Governors for that school.

The parent/carer must present their appeal in writing to the Chair of Governors. The Chair of Governors will consider the appeal and make a decision, within 5 days from the day that the school receives the written request, to either uphold the Headteacher's decision or request that the pupil is reinstated.

Should the Chair of Governors uphold the Headteacher's decision then there is no further right of appeal during this period of phased partial opening of schools. For any period of time that the pupil is at home full access to remote learning provision will be provided and the pupil's participation monitored and feedback provided where appropriate.

Examples of breaches of COVID 19 protection rules include but are not exclusive to:

- Persistent and deliberate failure to adhere to social distancing guidance
- Coughing or spitting deliberately
- Persistent and deliberate refusal to follow new school guidance on movement around the school site

This addendum will be reviewed prior to the start of the proposed new term on 1st September 2020 and is subject to amendments in light of the latest government guidance for schools.