



Relationship Policy 2020 Covid-19 Addendum

In our schools we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other. Whilst expectations in our Relationship Policy remain pertinent, it is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments for the safety of all students and staff. It is to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the Relationship Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, E-Safety Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. These adjustments are set out below.

We fully understand that our students will have had a range of different experiences during the lockdown period which may have an impact on their behaviour presentation upon return to school. Some may present with frustration as a result of being isolated from friends or having missed a significant event or experience; e.g. school trip. Others may have experienced bereavement or loss or another, real or perceived, traumatic episode. Some students may have had a very positive time during lockdown and therefore wish to not be in school. For many, the process of re-engagement with learning and the school community, under unusual circumstances, may require some additional input and encouragement.

As a result of these varied experiences children may present with behaviour that is not usual, this may include;

- Anxiety; lack of confidence
- Challenging behaviour; fight or flight response
- Anger; shouting, crying
- Hyperactivity and difficulties maintaining attention

For some students, including those with attachment concerns, and especially those with autism, the change in routines and lack of familiarity will require additional adjustment.

We recognise that all behaviour is a communication and therefore could be a sign that for some individual children there is an unfulfilled need and that they are communicating that there is a problem. The school will undertake individual risk assessments for the student and use *reasonable endeavours* to make the necessary adjustments to reduce the stimulus that may be triggering the challenging response.

Children with SEND are recognised as being particularly vulnerable and therefore have an urgent need to be re-integrated back into school as soon as is safe and reasonably possible. Schools will work closely with parents to implement supportive strategies that will inform an appropriate response. If necessary seeking external support from other agencies such as Educational Psychologists or Early Help.

Arrivals, Departures and Moving round the school

Students will arrive at the carpark in the morning; a member of staff will be calling students forward in bubbles and taking them into school. If travelling by vehicle then students are to remain inside until collected by a member of staff. If they come to school by foot then they are to stand at the designated area maintaining a 2 metre distance from others. Students will be taken straight to their designated room, keeping a 2m distance from any other individual as outlined in the social stories sent to all families. Once in school, all students are to remain in their bubble's designated area as indicated by the signs.



Relationship Policy 2020 Covid-19 Addendum

At their designated home time, students will leave the building from their designated exit. They will leave schools in bubbles and will be taken by a member of staff to their transport or parent. If the parent arrives on foot then we ask that they stand at the designated area outside maintaining social distance.

Movement around the school will be limited. Each bubble will have a designated area of the school, including an outside space, and will be expected to remain within this including using the external doors identified.

We understand that our students do not always understand when they feel unwell and staff will be extra vigilant to notice any signs of illness, however we will encourage all students to tell a member of staff if they are unwell. We will take students temperature each day to help identify any illness to keep everyone safe.

Students will be allocated their own basic equipment such as pencils/pens within the classroom; all other equipment will remain within the bubble and not be shared with students from other bubbles. We ask that each student bring in their own water bottle that is clearly named, this will be sent home each day to be cleaned.

Hand washing and Hygiene

We understand that a large number of our students may not be able to independently follow hygiene guidelines, however students will be expected (and supported) to follow all hand washing and hygiene routines while in school. Children will wash hands / use antibacterial gel before entering school, after returning from the outside, before and after eating and at regular intervals during the day. There are sinks in each of the classroom to support this.

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. Students will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes while at school.

We fully understand that our students may find these expectations difficult to follow, however should a child not be able to, or refuse, this can be a concern for the safety of themselves and others and their individual risk assessment will be reviewed to reflect this. (see below).

Social Distancing

We fully understand that our students may find social distancing challenging, especially as proximity and positive touch is a vital tool in learning and teaching young people with SEND, and we understand social distancing may be more difficult for younger children, they will be encouraged wherever possible to keep a distance from peers and adults, however, we understand this may not always be possible.

Children will be kept away from people outside of their assigned bubble with the use of designated areas within school and encouraged to socially distance within their bubble where appropriate though this will not always be possible.

Students will have their own table with chairs spaced 2m apart. When children enter their room, they will be expected to go straight to their table to receive instructions for the day.

Where students are not able to follow adult directions and are displaying unsafe behaviours, the usual disciplinary procedures and consequences will be used (see below).



Relationship Policy 2020 Covid-19 Addendum

Toilets

Each bubble will have designated toilets to use. Students will be supervised and encouraged to use the toilets one at a time. When a child has finished in the toilet they must wash their hands.

Break times

Students will have a designated place to play during break times. Children must stay in their designated area at all times.

If students would like to have a snack at school then this must be provided from home and in easy to open packages to minimise the risk.

Rewards

Positive reinforcement will be the most powerful way to ensure that everyone displays safe behaviours and this will be no different during these restrictions. Teachers and Teaching Assistants welcome opportunities to praise individuals for good work, attitude, safe and good behaviour, and show recognition, if these are brought to their attention. Above all praise and encouragement should be used as much as possible.

Behaviour in school

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

- Conversation(s) with student(s) which could include a verbal warning, moving seats if logistically possible and other behaviour management strategies in line with our current relationship policy.
- Once all appropriate behaviour management strategies have been exhausted, contact should be made with pupil's parent/carer.
- Review of the individual's risk assessment, which may result in it not being safe for the individual, other students or the staff, for them to be in school and they will remain at home (as per DfE guidance "Supporting Children and Young People with SEND as Schools Prepare for Wider Re-opening (26th My 2020)").
- If the health and safety of other students and staff members are put at risk by the student not adhering to social distancing measures, then the parent/carer will be expected to collect the student as soon as possible.
- If the student's actions are deemed as a serious breach of the school's Relationship Policy a fixed term exclusion may be applied in line with Exclusion guidance.



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Relationship Policy 2020 Covid-19 Addendum

Students working from home

If interacting with other students or staff online, children should always be kind and respectful to each other and respectful and obedient to staff, remembering at all times that that staff are not 'friends' with, or peers to, students.

Students should never attempt to contact staff via social media or make comments about staff on social media platforms. Any inappropriate comments to staff online, or any other platform, will be taken very seriously. This is also the case of for any online bullying towards other pupils or peer-on-peer abuse that is disclosed to the school during this time.