

Bedford High School

Behaviour Policy

Annex A: COVID-19 Behaviour Principles Addendum

2.0 Learn to Behave

Students will be orientated around new rules and guidance when they return to school. After this process, they will be expected to respond in a socially acceptable way. This includes behaving appropriately in line with any social distancing measures and changes to conduct as advised by local or national government, and enforced by school. Visual aids will be placed around school to ensure that there is a consistent approach.

New Routines

Each student and parent will be expected to sign the Home School Agreement as a condition of re-entry. The HSA requires the parent to agree to support the school with keeping staff and students safe. It also requires the parent to give the school three contacts and phone numbers to use in an emergency. These contacts will be subject to an occasional drill to ensure that communication is possible and effective. If the school is not able to contact a parent, then the child's attendance of school will be reviewed.

2.1 In addition to actions in the main behaviour policy, to encourage this, staff will:

- Keep instructions on conduct positive, clear, and remind students if they cannot breach any expectations that will keep others safe and free from risk.
- Keep in mind that, now more than ever, students need the guidance of how to conduct themselves in new routines.
- Understand that some students may find a return to school, or being in the environment, stressful and may be experiencing trauma or upset following a long period away. Welcome students to classrooms, connect with them and show kindness and understanding.

2.2 We will not accept the following behaviour:

In addition to the behaviours described in the main behaviour policy, any activity which either wilfully or accidentally puts staff or students at risk. This includes but is not limited to:

- Leaving their working area in a unclean and unhygienic state for others
- Refusing to socially distance when moving around school or in the classroom (one warning will be issued but then the student will be sent home pending a telephone meeting with SLT)
- Any activity that involves students coming into unnecessarily close proximity; eg play-fighting, assault. In these instances, a warning may not be given before the student is removed.
- Bullying of other students including peer abuse linked to the virus.
- Misuse of any PPE equipment that belongs to students or school
- Deliberately coughing or spitting at students or staff, putting them at risk (sanctioned with fixed-term or in extreme cases – permanent exclusion).

2.3 Roles and Responsibilities

As with current procedure, a duty officer will be on patrol throughout the day to deal with instances of behaviour that may be referred by a PGO. As the PGO may occasionally be required elsewhere, the teacher may refer to duty officer in a situation where support is needed. Students will be given the opportunity to make the right choice and follow the teacher's instruction. When a student doesn't comply a duty officer will be called and student given a second and final chance to comply.

If a student cannot follow instructions then this will be interpreted as unsafe behaviour and parents will be contacted. Students will resort to a remote learning arrangement until a student risk assessment has been put in place (and discussed with parents) and that we can ensure that we can keep their child (and others) safe in school.

6.0 Uniform

During the period of time when social distancing is expected and enforced, students will be expected to observe a heightened awareness of hygiene. Students should ideally tie long hair back and should not wear jewellery. Full uniform is observed, as in line with government guidance items do not need to be washed differently or more often. Where possible, coats should be carried in student bags and equipment will not be loaned out by any member of staff other than the form tutor.

8.0 Inclusion

During the period of national lockdown, Inclusion will not be operational.

10.0 Fixed-Term Exclusion

The sanction of fixed-term exclusion will be applied if a student assaults another student or member of staff by spitting, coughing or similar in an attempt to intimidate the individual or spread the virus. Return from exclusion meetings will take place over the telephone, but the student will not necessarily return to school immediately after the incident. A period of online or remote learning may follow a serious incident in order to offer a longer reflection time and provide a deterrent to others.

11.0 Respite and Supported Transfers

As much as possible, moving students between schools will be avoided, as this represents the risk of introducing the virus from an outside source.

12.0 Permanent Exclusion

If any student puts another student or member of staff at gross or repeated risk of infection with the virus, a permanent exclusion will be considered.

15.0 Positive Handling and Restraint

The school will always seek to de-escalate situations without the need for restraint or positive handling. During the period where social distancing is enforced, it will not be advisable for staff to positively handle or restrain students at all. If a student presents a risk to themselves or others in school, every effort will be taken to request them to move to a place of safety and parents called to collect their child immediately. The child's return to school will be considered by SLT and the parent may be advised that their child is to learn from home for an agreed extended period of time.

17.0 Bullying

Bullying linked to the virus is no more acceptable than any other form of bullying. Racial bullying related to the virus is no more acceptable than any other form of racism. All bullying is dealt with through the usual school procedures and will involve education and restorative work as part of the process.

18.0 Beyond the School Gate

The school is not responsible for students' conduct out of school. However, sometimes conduct out of school has impact in school. Students are expected to socially distance on their way to and from school, on public transport and in the community and if needless risks are taken, it may be necessary to intervene in some cases. If the school is made aware that a child is repeatedly taking risks or

failing to keep themselves and others safe outside school, the school will investigate and advise parents or guardians on safer conduct. If this is not adhered to, the school may take action involving separating the student or requesting that the student does not attend until they can modify their behaviour.

19.0 Allegations against School Staff

In line with guidance around bullying, an allegation against a member of staff linked to suffering from or spreading of the virus will be dealt with in the same way as any other allegation. A serious sanction will be considered for an incident that damages staff reputation or involves wide sharing of defamatory information.