



COVID 19 - Addendum to Positive Behaviour Policy

Date of Policy updated: 02nd June 2020

Updated behaviour guidance relating to the return to school after Covid 19 lockdown school closure

Aim

At Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College, despite the current challenges we face, it remains our policy to continue with our high standards and expectations of all students and to encourage all to act in accordance with our existing positive behaviour policy.

The aim of this update is to ensure that everyone knows and understands the ways in which we must change our behaviour to keep everyone safe. We understand that our first priority is teaching safe and respectful behaviour and establishing new routines that all can follow.

We are clear that where any behaviour is inappropriate or unsafe we are able to change that behaviour quickly, effectively and fairly, adopting different approaches when necessary. We will differentiate between inadvertent or forgetful behaviour and deliberately unsafe and challenging behaviour.

Behaviour that wilfully undermines the safety measures that the school has put in place or risks the safety of students or staff will not be tolerated. If incidents occur then they will be treated as high level behavioural incidents and sanctioned accordingly.

Our approach

We know that returning to school after such a long time at home presents a unique and challenging set of circumstances. We accept that students may feel anxious or nervous and will take time to settle in and establish new routines in a new situation; the school that they left in March is a very different place to where they will return. We recognise that following routines and understanding expectation is a learnt skill which students need to be systematically taught and to revise frequently. To reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus and keep all members of our community safe we are adopting the latest social distancing and health and safety measures and will strictly implement these. We will actively recognise and praise students who are following expectation and encourage their positive approach.

The main aim of these measures is to reduce risk of spreading the coronavirus, but we recognise that things can go wrong when learning new habits. Should this happen, staff will consider what risk has been posed, and whether any immediate mitigation needs to take place (e.g. washing of hands), before responding to the problem as an opportunity for further learning (e.g. by reminding and reinforcing the rules or by discussing the risks of that behaviour).

If a student behaves in a deliberately unsafe way (for example, by deliberately coughing or spitting on someone, or by moving outside of their learning zone), the school will take this very seriously. The school continues to have a range of disciplinary powers including exclusion as set

out in government guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing#behaviour-and-exclusions>) and where it is deemed necessary for the safety of pupils and staff they will be used.

During this difficult time children and young people may have experienced a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder which may have been more noticeable during the time of lockdown and self-isolation.

Our experienced staff will work collectively to identify whether a child or young person's behaviour may be related to other underlying issues linked to the COVID 19 pandemic and will support them effectively in these circumstances and will provide advice and guidance on working with other professionals and external agencies where appropriate.

Where a student is identified as having SEND the Pastoral team, led by our SENDCO will put a bespoke package in place to support individual needs. The safeguarding team will continue to make individualised provision for vulnerable students in liaison with other agencies, including Children's social Care.

Students who, prior to lockdown, displayed patterns of dangerous or high risk behaviour will undergo a detailed risk assessment to determine if they can be included in the on-site provision. If it is decided that they cannot be on-site, they will continue to be supported with our detailed remote learning package or at specialist alternative provision, arranged by school in order to meet their needs.

Responsibilities within this policy

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the implementation and day-to-day management of this policy and procedures.

All staff are responsible for ensuring this policy and subsequent procedures are followed, and consistently and fairly applied. Support for all staff in the implementation of the policy is essential. Staff need to ensure that they are aware of the information that has been shared and that they have participated in CPD via our staff handbook and digital safety briefings. Any questions or concerns can and should be raised with SLT prior to or during time in school to allow for personal confidence and clarity. All staff have a responsibility to contribute to a quality learning environment which fosters a positive, supportive ethos and atmosphere for all students.

Parents and carers are expected to take full responsibility for the conduct and behaviour of their child/children both inside and outside of the school linked to the routines and guidance around social distancing. Parents and carers are to work in partnership, in maintaining these new measures linked to COVID 19 and the high standards and expectations of behaviour in line with this policy.

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to raise any questions or issues arising from the policy update at any point deemed necessary through the college email.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own conduct and behaviour and will be made fully aware of the new COVID 19 measures outlined in the policy. Students are also expected to adhere to the existing behaviour policy and guidance. Students are to report any instances where they believe social distancing or safety measures are not being adhered to. Students are also expected to report any instances of misbehaviour, disruption, violence or bullying as soon as this is witnessed so that it can be dealt with in line with the policy.

At Saints Peter and Paul we continue to frame our approach with our key principle of RESPECT. We define respect in 3 ways:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Respect for our environment

Additional notes to be aware of linked to the Positive behaviour policy:

Detentions

During the phased return to school during the COVID 19 pandemic detentions will not take place.

Internal exclusion

There will be no facility for Internal exclusion during the phased return. If this changes, in due course we will inform parents/carers to update you prior to the changes taking effect.

External Fixed Term exclusions

External exclusions during the pandemic will remain in operation. If a student displays inappropriate, risk taking or dangerous behaviour or is in breach of the social distancing regulations the Principal will issue an external exclusion and parents will be required to collect their child immediately. A decision will be made by the school about next steps and further actions.

Examples of high risk behaviour include:

- Repeatedly and deliberately ignoring the social distancing measures put in place by the school
- Spitting at another student/member of staff
- Deliberately coughing at a student/member of staff
- Behaviour or language that is intended to cause alarm or distress to students/staff about the current situation

Please note that the Principal reserves the right, at any time, to respond to any incident in a manner that best serves the interests of our students, staff and community.

Power to search and confiscation

If we believe that a student is in possession of an offensive weapon or illegal substance we have the power to search and will do so, safely in line with our positive behaviour policy. Where necessary we will gain the support of and take advice from the police.

De-escalation and Use of positive handling

- De-escalation and distraction will be used in any challenging situation
- Evacuation of a classroom or work area would be used if necessary to isolate a student in a challenging situation
- Staff are trained in 'Team Teach' – the principle of which is de-escalation and where necessary positive handling, using techniques to make situations safe
- Any serious incident that would potentially require this, should be referred to the member of SLT on duty
- Staff involved in any situation where positive handling was required (and social distancing measures were not possible) will be offered PPE

Mobile Phones

The rules on mobile phones remain unchanged, they should not be seen or heard within the school buildings.

Entering and Leaving the School Site

Students will be given instructions about which entrances that they should use to enter and leave school. Please note that at the end of the school day there will be no facility for students to stay on site to wait for friends or transport.

Uniform

For reasons of hygiene we have temporarily relaxed the school rules on uniform. Students will be able to wear their own clothes enabling them to change into fresh items of clothing on a daily basis. Clothing that is worn should be appropriate for school.