

# St Michael's C of E Primary School



## Behaviour Policy Amendment in response to Covid-19

St Michael's Primary School has reviewed Annex A (Behaviour Principles) of the Planning Guidance for Primary Schools issued by the Department of Education.

### Context

We want our school community to feel safe, calm and re-assured, and to know that it will be okay to come back to school. We are already working on creating an environment that is and feels physically and emotionally safe for all of us.

When the children return, we want them to feel excited and happy coming into school and we want them to know that we are genuinely delighted to have them back and to be able to see them again. We will provide an inclusive environment in which the children feel surrounded by support, and know that they can rely on all the adults around them to be positively reinforcing the same messages to create these warm, welcoming feelings of care and nurture when we cannot touch and need to keep a safe distance.

We will focus primarily on meeting the social and emotional needs of our pupils and on their readiness to learn skills.

This amendment is to be read in conjunction with our own published Behaviour Policy. We continue to follow our behaviour policies in terms of promoting and rewarding positive behaviour.

All children and staff have experienced trauma and loss since the beginning of this current pandemic (COVID -19). There has been significant loss of routines, structure, opportunities and freedom. Relationships, friendships and social interaction have been significantly affected. For some children and staff, this could trigger a trauma response.

The return to school for some of our children could also induce feelings of stress, due to the new routines and changed environment. Many may experience separation anxiety, due to the prolonged period at home with their parents.

All staff in school need to be aware of this and adapt our responses accordingly. We will need to constantly model and coach around these new expectations, behaviours and routines, and always reassure and reframe any negative perceptions.

Where possible and within the limitation of the COVID-19 secure school environment, staff will continue to use the Essex Steps Therapeutic approach implemented September 2019.

We know that all behaviour is communication and when we are seeing behaviours indicative of a stress/trauma response (such as increased irritability, activity, withdrawal, non-compliance, all attention needing behaviours), we should always be using the **Steps** approach to label, acknowledge and validate the feelings and behaviours we are seeing and the possible reasons for those.

We ask all staff to then seek to reframe and reinforce the positive behaviours we wish to see, leading by example at all times.



## Behaviour whilst at school

- It is an expectation that whilst your child is in school, that they adhere to the school's regulations in relation to hygiene: they must follow instructions for handwashing, sanitising and use of equipment. Expectations about sneezing, coughing and tissue disposal will be shared regularly with pupils; it is an expectation this is reiterated at home by parents/carers in the best interests of all parties.
- It goes without saying that any serious breaches of hygiene and sanitisation – including spitting, coughing at others, wiping fluids on others – will be taken incredibly seriously and as such, parents and carers will be called to collect their children immediately. This will be dealt with extremely seriously and consequences will be put in place.
- Children must follow guidance and instructions on how they are able to socialise in school with their peers and staff during this time; we appreciate that for younger children, further support will be needed with this, however the expectation is that children follow instructions for the safety of themselves, their peers and staff in school. During recreational time, outdoor learning and indoor learning, the same rules and expectations apply.
- When moving around the school, children will – once again – be expected to follow adult's instructions, which will include one-way systems, out of bounds areas and queueing at a safe distance. Children will be reminded of these new routines, however should children choose not to abide by these instructions, this will constitute as a breach of the behaviour policy and parents / carers will be called to collect their child.

## Complex and unsafe behaviours

Challenging, complex and unsafe behaviours (“behaviours of concern”) are an indicator that children need support to be included in our school.

Complex and unsafe behaviours involve a very small proportion of children.

**As some of the strategies we use for de-escalation and to support positive behaviour cannot be used in the current circumstances (COVID -19), an individual risk assessment will be made for a child where the risk of complex unsafe behaviour is likely.**

Such unsafe behaviours include:

- Spitting, licking and biting
- Physical aggression involving skin to skin contact
- Absconding
- Serious emotional distress caused by the need to maintain social distancing

### **This may include pupils:**

- who have an individual behaviour risk assessment plan
- where the school deems it to be necessary due to behaviour of the pupil before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The risk assessment will be discussed and agreed with parents prior to returning to school. Where it is deemed that a child is too high a risk to come into school and keep themselves and others safe, the school will work with the parents and child to support a gradual transition into school at an appropriate time when routines have been established at school.

It is important to note that children's engagement in behaviours of concern can change over time.

## Principles underpinning our approach

Strategies and interventions to support children's positive behaviour development reflect our behaviour policy that states:

"We are a caring, inclusive school and aim for every member of our school community to feel valued and respected. We all have the right to be treated positively and fairly. The school behaviour policy is therefore designed to encourage the way in which all members – pupils, staff, parents and governors can work together in a mutually supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels safe and secure and where the health and well-being of individuals is paramount, using a **Therapeutic Approach** to understand behaviour."

## Reasonable Adjustments

Please be aware that the following reasonable adjustments have been made in addition to our Behaviour Policy and will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 until the end of this academic year.

**All staff are expected to teach and model the new behaviour expectations using the Steps approach and to support positive behaviour in line with our stated principles.**

If pupils display any of the following behaviours, parents / carers will be contacted, and the provision and approach discussed. Where we are unable to reduce the impact and risk of the behaviour the indicated sanction will be used.

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## Behaviours which do not cause immediate heightened risk to other individuals but which need to be addressed to prevent escalation:

Behaviour	Action	Sanction
Not following school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising	<p>Adults to model and more closely supervise.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed.</p>	<p>Should this become persistent, the pupil will be sent home for the rest of the day and a warning letter issued.</p> <p>A behaviour risk assessment will be undertaken which may indicate that it would not be safe for the child to be in school.</p>
Running away from adults to access out of bounds areas, including those areas of school that will be temporarily prohibited in light of the current circumstances.	<p>Adults to explain the reasoning and de-escalate using appropriate strategies.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed.</p>	<p>Should this become persistent, the pupil will be sent home for the rest of the day and a warning letter issued.</p> <p>A behaviour risk assessment will be undertaken which may indicate that it would not be safe for the child to be in school.</p>
Not following designated routes around school.	<p>Adults model correct movement around the school.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed</p>	<p>Should this become persistent, the pupil will be sent home for the rest of the day and a warning letter issued.</p> <p>A behaviour risk assessment will be undertaken which may indicate that it would not be safe for the child to be in school.</p>
Deliberately making any inappropriate and insensitive comments or displaying insensitive behaviours linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, a pupil saying, "Your mum has coronavirus."	<p>Explain to the child why what they have done is inappropriate.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed.</p> <p>Speak to the child who has been affected.</p> <p>Contact their parents.</p>	<p>Should this become persistent the pupil will be sent home for rest of day and a warning letter issued.</p>

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**Behaviours which present an immediate heightened risk to other individuals, involving more physical incidents, that need to be dealt with swiftly:**

<p>Spitting, licking and/or biting others.</p> <p>Physical aggression involving skin to skin contact.</p>	<p>Remove other children and adults to a safe distance.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed.</p> <p>Contact the parents of the child and the child who has been spat at / licked or bitten.</p>	<p>The pupil will be sent home for a fixed term exclusion of at least 2 days.</p> <p>A behaviour risk assessment will be undertaken which may indicate that it would not be safe for the child to be in school.</p>
<p>Deliberately coughing in the direction of other pupils and/or adults.</p>	<p>Remove other children and adults to a safe distance.</p> <p>Parents informed and provision and approach discussed</p> <p>Contact the parents of the child and the child who has been coughed at.</p>	<p>The pupil will be sent home for a fixed term exclusion of at least 2 days.</p> <p>A behaviour risk assessment will be undertaken which may indicate that it would not be safe for the child to be in school.</p>

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## Parent/Carer agreement

In returning your child to school parents/carers are confirming that:

- They have read the school's Behaviour policy and this amendment which comes into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.
- They understand that if their child displays the behaviours detailed in the amendment that they will be contacted and that where the school is unable to reduce the impact and risk of the behaviour the indicated sanction will be used.
- They will be fully supportive of these reasonable adjustments which have been made to protect the pupils and staff at the school.