



## **Addendum to our Attitudes, Behaviour and Discipline Policy**

### **Behaviour during Covid-19 Pandemic upon a return to school**

Expectations of behaviour at school and preschool during this time will be of the same high standard as normal, however we understand that many children may be anxious about being at school and preschool as they will have been at home for an extended period of time.

It is essential we show compassion and empathy of any unusual or unexpected behaviour and work together as staff and with parents, to find ways of helping individual children deal with their emotions. We recognise that there may be more instances of unfamiliar behaviour than the norm and we will make suitable adjustments accordingly to support each individual or group of children.

The normal sanctions and rewards scheme will still be applicable, on the basis that these are reviewed with children when they return. Leniency will be applicable in the first instance in order to support children's re-acquaintance and adjustment back in to a school environment, rather like the beginning of the new school year.

Children will be given clear instructions and expectations around social distancing throughout the day and staff will be vigilant to monitor this is being observed whenever possible and appropriate. This will be the responsibility of the two members of staff designated to each bubble. However, government guidance does acknowledge that primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff and so we should not be issuing sanctions/consequences relating to this UNLESS STAFF ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY/HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OTHERS; this would need to be discussed and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The school Attitude, Behaviour and Discipline policy must be followed if a child should continually breach new procedures through pure defiance.

Pupils who forget to follow the health and hygiene procedures and therefore increase the risks of contamination, will be spoken to quietly by a member of staff. They will be reminded of the reasons and expectations. It is important that staff do not increase anxiety levels of the children by constantly 'badgering' them about social distancing as this may very well lead to trauma and won't help the stress levels of staff. All staff will be role models for social distancing and encourage young children to remain at a distance. This will be achieved as much as possible by the set-

up of the room, placing of chairs and tables and not providing activities that may encourage grouping. Over time, with careful nurturing, the child will learn.

Staff may become extremely concerned for the safety of all children if a child continually forgets the new systems (which may very well be the case for younger children and those with SEND) or are confused by them. Staff must ensure the child understands why being too close or not washing their hands, etc AT THIS CURRENT TIME is not a sensible choice. Staff must look at the delivery of explanations given and ensure they are stage/age appropriate. Distraction techniques and encouraging children to move to different areas will be used.

If staff find that the child is simply not able to cope with the situation and therefore poses a risk to themselves and others, the following steps will be taken AS A LAST RESORT (in order of action ie moving on to each step if the child continues to struggle):

1. Parents/carers of this child will be informed at the end of the day and asked to reinforce expectations of the school, e.g. practise hand-washing at home.
2. Parents/carers informed that their child will need to stay at home as of the following day until school resumes normal opening times (or if appropriate, the parent/carer should discuss a possible reintegration before this time).

In all communications with parents it should be stressed that these sanctions are for the health and safety of their own child as well as the health and safety of others.

J V Hopkins  
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