



## Behaviour – Covid 19 Annex

This is an annex to Mordiford Primary School Behaviour Policy.

These are exceptional circumstances and a time of great anxiety. The purpose of this annex is to support the challenging time of transition back to being in school. The school life that staff and children operate in normally will be changed and a different norm will require different behavioural rules and expectations to ensure all are kept safe and healthy.

During the return to schooling (whether for certain year groups, for the children of key workers, vulnerable children, or the wider school body) it is essential that staff are aware and act in a manner that is supportive and sympathetic to the heightened levels of worry and anxiety that everybody will be experiencing. At such times all children, especially those with special educational needs, will have heightened reactions to triggers and their fight/flight instinct will be aroused with greater speed. Staff should be mindful of the need to manage transitions and potential areas of concern that might trigger a child to act in an uncharacteristic way.

Alongside this need it is vital that the children are made aware, in age appropriate ways, of the importance of following the health and safety rules to minimise the risks of spreading the Covid-19 virus.

When in school the children will be taught the new routines and the expectations. These will be clearly explained on the first day back. This message will be repeated regularly to ensure the children know and understand the behaviours that are expected of them.

All staff need to be mindful that the children have been out of school for an extended period and so will need to be retaught the behavioural expectation (both Covid-19 specific and the regular school rules).

In addition to our Behaviour Policy which sets out how children should always treat others as they would wish to be treated and be respectful and aware of how their actions impact on others, there are additional, context-specific requirements that need to be identified.

Children must remember:

- To maintain high levels of personal hygiene (wash their hands regularly for at least twenty seconds whenever instructed by a teacher.) Hands must be washed between activities, after playtimes, before food and snack times and upon entry to the school in the morning.
- To ensure they maintain the social distancing that is asked of them (this will vary according to age):
  - In Reception and Year 1 children will be distanced through the layout of the classroom and the activities which are planned for them. Children will be taught how

to/and encouraged to interact safely with their peers eg no hugging, hand holding etc

- In Year 6 the children will sit at separate desks and minimise the time they are spending moving around the classroom.
- To maintain social distancing during food times and not to share food or drinks from packed lunches.
- To stay within their teaching group to ensure the potential risks of cross contamination are minimised.
- To use the resources that are provided for them within the school and not to bring in items from home.
- To follow the new routines that are put in place (this will include the timings for the start and end of each day, the use of one-way systems in corridors, and which toilets are allocated for them to use.)
- At playtimes, children will be within their teaching group. Equipment is to be used under direction and when permission is given by adults. Year 6 children will be required to maintain social distancing when at playtime.

Children who are following the rules will be mindful of others, respectful of adults and their peers and thoughtful about how their actions will impact on those around them.

### **Sanctions:**

It is vitally important that children follow the rules and routines that are set, especially as it could have a significant negative impact on the health and safety of others.

As a result, where children do not follow the set instructions the following actions will be taken:

- Children will receive a warning and the teaching staff will ensure the child understands what they were meant to have done, what they did wrong, and why it is essential they do not transgress again.
- Following this, if the child again transgresses, they will be removed from the situation and spoken to by a senior leader within the school. Their parents/guardians will also be informed at the end of the day to help teach the child the importance and potential impact of their actions.
- If a child continues to transgress and, by doing so, the staff believe the child is potentially risking the school's ability to provide a safe environment where social distancing can be maintained the child will need to return to home schooling until the school believes it is appropriate and safe for the child to return.
- If a child is seen performing a deliberate, malicious act that could result in transmission this will result in the child immediately being removed from the setting and taken to a senior leader. If it is deemed this was a malicious act the child's parents will be contacted.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Return to school safeguarding considerations for vulnerable pupils risk assessment** when assessing the risks posed to pupils and their experience during the lockdown period.

Staff will be alert to the potential risks the pupil may have faced are assessed including, but not limited to, the following:

- Domestic abuse
- Physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect
- Online abuse
- Living with someone with a history of substance misuse

Staff will not depend on disclosures from pupils; they consider communication through observation of the pupil's behaviour too.

The school considers the potential for risks to be higher for pupils identified as vulnerable in accordance with the DfE's 'Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'.

Staff will monitor carefully children of key workers. Possible effects on the pupil are considered, such as:

- Fear for the family member's safety.
- Issues with family separation.
- Concerns about lack of PPE.
- Reports of deaths of those working in the same sector.
- Death or illness of a family member's friend or colleague

The **Bereavement Policy** is followed when offering support to pupils who have experienced loss.

The school is aware that increased anxiety during the lockdown period was common and considers the impact of this. Support for mental health is implemented in line with the SRE/PSHE curriculum and policy. The school identifies those who were receiving support before the lockdown period, and those who may require support following this, and ensures a plan is in place to support these pupils.

Consideration is given to pupils who were not able to interact with other children during the lockdown period and the impact this will have on their social development and behaviours that they may display.

Staff will consider how to enable pupils to re-engage with in-school learning and will offer support to promote positive learning behaviours and attitudes towards learning.