

COVID-19 – Addendum to Behaviour policy

Date: 2 September 2020

To be reviewed as necessary.

This addendum is to be read in conjunction with Malden Oaks' Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Key documents:

DfE Guidance: Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

DfE Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

DfE Guidance: Mental health and behaviour in schools

How schools can support pupils whose mental health problems manifest themselves in behaviour, Published 16 June 2014, Last updated 12 November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

Ethos

All members of the Malden Oaks' community have a shared understanding of our core values which enables staff, students and their families to feel confident that the school is a safe place of learning. Staff view behaviour as a communication and strive to create a calm, purposeful and respectful atmosphere for the whole community. Under the challenging context of COVID-19, this is particularly important and we should all be working together to do the very best we can for ourselves and each other under the circumstances, especially keeping safe.

Routines and Consistency

For many of our students, routine and consistency are crucial in order to support them in being successful. Under the current circumstances, it is possible that some of our routines will change with little notice. We will always do our best to inform students of any changes in advance and we will support them in settling into new routines, whether it be attending school at different times of the day, being in classes with different people or having different members of staff teach them.

It will be important for students to be supported, both by home and school and parents should discuss any information they receive from school with their child to help prepare them. It is important that students know what time they are to arrive at school. It is likely that journeys to school will take longer than before so students should allow extra time to get to school. Walking or cycling is to be encouraged where possible.

In school, students will be given their own equipment- pens, pencils, calculator etc. Students at the Dukes Centre will collect their pack at reception on arrival and must return it to reception at the end of the day. They should take the pack with them from class to class. Students at the Surbiton site will keep their equipment in their classroom. AT NJ the teacher will give the student their pack. Students must not touch other people's belongings or share equipment with other students. At lunchtimes students should also not share food with each other.

Staying Safe

It is important that as part of the Malden Oaks community, everyone does their bit to keep themselves and each other safe. The following messages will be reinforced to students:

- Students must follow social distancing guidelines, as directed by their teachers.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands on arrival and should do so on a regular basis throughout the day, especially before eating. Anti-bacterial gel will also be available to students and they are welcome to bring their own if they prefer.
- Students should be mindful about coughing and sneezing- always using a tissue or their elbow to protect others. They should then wash their hands to reduce the risk of a spread of the virus.
- Students must not attend school if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 and should tell a member or staff immediately if they feel unwell whilst at school. Parents should tell the school immediately if their child or someone else in the household exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 and should follow the current government guidelines for self-isolating.

Support

We understand many of our students will have found lockdown a challenge. As a staff, we are committed to supporting students through any difficulties they are experiencing. In line with other difficulties that students may be having, where appropriate, additional support from external professionals will be sought. Parents should discuss any concerns they have about their child with the child's Key Worker.

It is also recognised that in the current circumstances some students may have been exposed to a range of adversity during lockdown, leading to an increase in social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) concerns. Existing ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) may be further compounded by events brought about during the Covid-19 outbreak. Additionally, the disruption to SEND provision during school closure may be an impact on behaviour.

Where appropriate, the school will look for additional support and access to services such as Educational Psychologists, social workers, and counsellors.