



Archibald First School

Behaviour Policy and Social Distancing Addendum

September 2020

Whilst we are working in exceptional times our first priority, as always, is to keep children safe. Therefore, in accordance with government guidelines, we are implementing a clear approach to social distancing in a number of important areas.

Government guidance does not advise that social distancing is essential at all times in school, but it is one of a range of measures that schools are taking to keep children safe. This means:

In all year groups:

- *children will be in year group bubbles of 60 children and work with designated staff*
- *staggering start and end times*
- *staggering break times - keeping apart from other year group bubbles when in the playground*
- *visiting designated toilets depending on our bubble system*
- *staggering lunchtimes with only one bubble in the dinner hall at any one time*
- *putting guidelines on entry into/out of school*
- *having visual reminders on the school corridor floor children*
- *encouraging good hygiene and extra hand washing*
- *avoiding unnecessary staff gatherings*

In Years 1-4:

- *sitting children at tables which have some space between them, where possible*
- *creating individual packs of resources, e.g. pencils and books*
- *utilising outdoor space where possible for educational activities*

In EYFS:

- *creating large spaces for the children to move around in*
- *selecting resources carefully i.e. those that can easily be washed/cleaned*
- *children working across 3 zones to create space between our youngest learners*

In line with this approach, we expect pupils as well as adults to follow these expectations which we have incorporated within our 'school rules' as explained in this policy.

We recognise that this will be very new and could be challenging in some situations, particularly for younger pupils, where staff will implement social distancing measures as far as they are practicably able, whilst ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for.

Similarly, there may be exceptional situations with pupils where social distancing is superseded by our duty of care towards them (such as if a child seriously hurts themselves). In these situations, the HT will be called with PPE and staff will again take all possible precautions, whilst ensuring that these pupils remain safe and are well cared for.

In all other circumstances, the expectation for social distancing and safe behaviour is now an important part of our behaviour policy. This is intended to ensure that pupils can learn and thrive in a positive, orderly and safe environment.

This policy should be applied proportionately for younger pupils to encourage positive and safe behaviour rather than to apply sanctions for accidental lapses. For older pupils, there may be situations where they are deliberately breaching expectations for social distancing and safe behaviour, and it is important that staff respond to this consistently.

We recognise that to begin with these expectations will be very unfamiliar and so accidental or momentary lapses of social distancing will be dealt with as such. Pupils will be reminded of the expectation and expected to amend their behaviour immediately.

However, if there are instances where pupils deliberately and repeatedly break this rule then this will be considered a clear breach of the behaviour policy.

This will be dealt with seriously and in line with any other breach of the behaviour policy and in accordance with the approaches outlined in full within this policy.

If the behaviour is unmanageable then we will no longer be able to offer that child a place in school whilst social distancing measures need to be in place.

The following are now added to the consequences used in school:

Action	Consequence
Deliberately breaching social distancing	Warning and reminder of the importance.
Repeatedly deliberately breaching social distancing (despite instruction otherwise)	Child to be taken to SLT by an adult. Contact with parent/carer to make them aware Individual risk assessment to be carried out with the parent/carer.
Breaching social distancing with intent to threaten or intimidate other pupils (eg, 'pushing a child and saying 'you've got coronavirus').	Child moved to an area away from other children. If this is not possible the rest of the group will be asked to go out on to the playground. Individual risk assessment to be carried out (or existing one reviewed) with the parent/carer. Depending on the outcome it may be safer for the child to be educated at home.
Breaching social distancing and protocols away from school.	Places at school will be withdrawn if it is brought to our attention that families and children have been breaking government guidelines in relation to social distancing and mixing with others.

Physical intervention and restraint (including SEND pupils)

This is a particularly challenging aspect of our policy at this time whilst we follow government guidelines around social distancing. **We will use physical intervention and positive handling only as a last resort.**

For pupils with significant SEND and behavioural needs where positive contact is often needed, we will amend these plans where possible to use alternative strategies. Each child with significant SEND will have their own risk assessment completed by Angela Ward.

Focused work will be carried out where appropriate to help these pupils to understand how they will be supported differently from the ways they may have become used to. Staff working with these pupils will also be expected to consistently apply these strategies. Social Stories have been prepared for each child for their return to school.

Nevertheless, there may still be extreme instances where positive handling is required in the interests of safety and pupils. This will be where a failure to intervene could lead to harm. In these instances, this will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines within this and other relevant policies such as the behaviour policy.

Whilst decisions to use physical intervention may need to be made quickly, they should always take account the precise circumstances of an incident and a judgment should consider:

- Whether it is essential because pupils are at risk of harm (to themselves or others)
- Whether physical intervention is reasonable and judged in line with the guidance on social distancing.

It is therefore expected that physical intervention will only be used in exceptional circumstances.

PPE will be available in school and offered to all staff. **All staff who work one to one with pupils who find social distancing hard due to their need should use this equipment when in school. This is the message that will be shared explicitly will all staff.**

Other issues

Issue	Guidance
Class Rules – these typically provide a ‘hook’ to help pupils remember important expectations.	Rather than just teaching the expectation for social distancing as a separate issue – it is now one of the ‘class rules’ so that it sits as part of the daily life of the school.
Playground Games – some games that pupils routinely play are no longer appropriate due to social distancing (eg, Tag)	Make this a positive initiative. Pro-actively teach pupils new games that encourage social distancing. Some ideas: https://www.asphaltgreen.org/blog/rep-it-out-games-for-social-distancing See Outdoor Activities PowerPoint
Reward systems – teachers to consider whether their usual reward systems (eg, sticker charts) could be problematic due to social distancing.	Make amendments as needed. Consider alternatives. E.g. marbles in a jar rather than a sticker chart requiring children to approach adults.
Sanctions / Time Out – Children cannot be sent to a partner classroom/another space.	The first Time Out should take place within the classroom. Teachers will need to ensure that an appropriate space is known to the children. If a child needs to be removed from class due to persistent disruptive behaviour then the ‘immediate help needed in XXXX’ card should be sent to the office. The HT or admin staff will then take the child for Time Out.