

Addendum 1

**Arrangements for Behaviour &  
Discipline at Gothic Mede Academy  
during the COVID-19 pandemic**

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## Context

From September 2020, schools were fully reopened after being closed for six months. Gothic Mede Academy has implemented safety measures as a result of the added risks presented by the virus. These measures are outlined in the school's COVID-19 risk assessment.

The measures that will need to be implemented to keep children and adults safe will mean that specific pupil guidance is required to communicate expectations of behaviour and the consequences for pupils putting others at risk.

## Rules

The existing rules for Gothic Mede Academy will continue to apply throughout all stages of the pandemic, including during partial and full closures as a result of school specific, local or national lockdown. .

These are:

- **Readiness**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**

The rule of **Responsibility** will be of particular pertinence and most behaviour policy infringements related to children keeping themselves and others safe can be addressed by reminding children of this rule and applying it to the specific incident. Any parent contact mentioned below will be conducted remotely in all but exceptional circumstances.

If not mentioned below, the existing policy for Behaviour Management and Discipline will apply, including during periods of remote learning.

# Government Guidance

Specifically, the Department for Education has provided guidance which suggests that schools make the following additions to their behaviour policy

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

- following any altered routines for arrival or departure
- following school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- following instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- use of toilets
- clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person
- clear rules for pupils at home about conduct in relation to remote education
- rewards and sanction system where appropriate

## Recognising positive behaviour

Some existing systems of rewarding good behaviour may need to be amended to follow good social distancing practice. This will include pupils not coming into physical contact with stickers, certificates etc. Where appropriate, a named member of staff will place effort stickers onto children's charts. Other forms of praise and celebration can be implemented through weekly newsletters and emails to parents.

## Responding to negative choices

The school will make the aforementioned systems of keeping staff and pupils safe very clear to children and parents at the start of the school's phased reopening. The importance of these systems will be explained to the children through teaching sessions and assemblies.

Pupils who fail to follow the new school systems of social distancing, group isolation, sharing of resources etc. will be reminded in the first instance of the reason for the system and will be given a warning, if this continues, more specific teaching of the child could be implemented e.g. at breaktime. If a child continues to fail to follow protective measures, increasingly significant steps will be taken to reinforce the new systems e.g. the child

speaking to the duty member of SLT, conversations with parents/carers. Conversations with SLT should be requested by staff using two-way radio communication.

Depending on the age and level of understanding of the child, if they make a deliberate choice to assault an adult or child (including through coughing, spitting and physical assault), they will receive one warning, they will be isolated from their class to work elsewhere in school and their parent/carer will be informed. The child's temporary work space will be cleaned thoroughly before being used by another child. If the child were to repeat this offence, the Principal will make a decision about how to maintain the safety of the community, considering the risk presented by the pupil's actions. Sanctions such as fixed term exclusions can be used in the most serious or persistent of infringements, in line with the guidance from the DfE referred to above.

The severity and inflexibility of these sanctions reflect the potential consequences of not following governmental social distancing and hygiene guidelines. Gothic Mede Academy takes its responsibility for the safety of staff and pupils, and the contribution that it must make to the safety of our local community, very seriously.

All sanctions related to other infringements of the school's rules remain appropriate as outlined in the main Behaviour Management and Discipline Policy.

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