

In the current extreme circumstances a sub committee or full Governing body ratification is not possible.
This addendum has been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body on 04/06/20



COVID-19 Student Conduct Policy Addendum

May 2020

Aim

The aim of this addendum is to ensure that everyone

- knows and understands the ways in which we must change or adapt our behaviour to keep everyone safe from the risk of infection
- to ensure that where behaviour is unsafe, we are able to change that behaviour quickly, effectively and fairly
- to help us to understand that our first priority is teaching safe behaviour, and that different approaches may be appropriate when differentiating between inadvertent or forgetful unsafe behaviour and deliberately unsafe behaviour.

Our approach

At Monkseaton Middle School we recognise that 'following rules' is a learnt skill which children need to be systematically taught and to revise frequently. To reduce the risk of spreading the Coronavirus and keep children and staff safe we are introducing some new rules. These are detailed below. The main aim of these rules is to reduce risk of spreading the coronavirus, but we recognise that things can go wrong when children are learning new habits. Should this happen, staff will consider what risk has been posed, and whether any immediate mitigation needs to take place (e.g. washing of hands), before responding to the problem as an opportunity for further learning (e.g. by reminding and reinforcing the rules or by discussing the risks of that behaviour). Where a child behaves in a deliberately unsafe way (for example, by deliberately coughing or spitting on someone, or by moving into someone else's class "bubble"), the school will take this very seriously. Again, the first course of action is to consider whether any immediate mitigation is necessary. The problem will still be approached as an opportunity for further learning, and this will also prompt urgent discussion with the child's parents or carers. If senior leaders believe it is necessary, a personal risk reduction plan may be drawn up with the child and family.

In order to manage behaviour appropriately and reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus, children will do the following:

- Children must arrive and leave school only at their allocated gate and door
- Children must wash hands using soap thoroughly on arrival to school and at other points throughout day, especially before eating and as directed by an adult.
- Children must use hand sanitiser, if hand washing not practical, as directed by adults
- Children must follow instructions from staff at all times this is especially important with regards seating instructions and entering and leaving classrooms.
- Children must follow the 2m distancing rules around school
- Children must not touch or hug other adults or children
- Children must try not to touch their face with their hands, especially their mouth, nose and eyes.
- If children need to cough or sneeze use a tissue and then put it in the bin. If they don't have a tissue then cough or sneeze into your elbow/ upper arm. Children must immediately wash their hands.
- Children must tell an adult straight away if they feel unwell or have been coughing quite a lot.
- Children must not share drinks bottles, food, cutlery or plates and cups etc
- Children must follow all instructions about staying within their allocated group even if they have friends they want to be with in another group on the playground, in the dining room or anywhere else in school.
- Children must only use the toilet when an adult states it is safe to do so. If there is someone else in the toilet area or at the sinks pupils must stay 2m away from them. Afterwards, hand must be washed and dried thoroughly.
- Children must NEVER spit at anyone or anything.
- Children must use the resources or equipment, in the classroom or outside, that an adult tells them is safe to use

Exclusions

If the behaviour of a child is such that a child is posing serious threat to the safety of others and the school has exhausted all strategies to reduce that risk, then exclusion remains an option. However, the Headteacher would seek guidance from the Local Authority before carrying out this sanction as in the context of the Coronavirus, the safety of the child at home may also be seriously compromised and this risk should, not be diminished but viewed as part of the overall risk assessment for the child, taking on board the views and advise of all relevant stakeholders and agencies.

Break and Lunchtime Arrangements

These arrangements have been adapted in accordance with our main risk assessment and operating procedure but all adults supervising pupils must uphold this addendum to the Student Conduct Policy.