

## Southend High School for Boys

### Addendum (COVID-19) to the Behaviour Policy

June 2020

At Southend High School for Boys we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which students are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other. The expectations for behaviour which are set out fully in our Behaviour Policy remain at the core of this behaviour addendum, however it is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments. We may need to amend or add to this addendum as circumstances or official guidance changes. We will communicate any changes to staff, parents and pupils.

This addendum applies until further notice. All of these adjustments are made for the safety of all pupils and staff.

This addendum is to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the Behaviour Policy, Exclusions Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, E-Safety Policy and all other school policies.

#### **Social distancing**

There will be new expectations for students with regard to social distancing. These will be made clear to students prior to their arrival at school and students will be reminded about these expectations regularly by their teachers. Students are expected to adhere to social distancing instructions at all times and to maintain a safe distance between themselves and others, including during social times. Students must not touch the belongings or equipment of other students or staff at the school, and must not share any personal items, water bottles or food. Physical contact such as hugging or holding hands will not be permitted.

It is understandable that some students may find the new regulations difficult to follow and in the first instance, for a non-deliberate breach of social distancing rules, students will be given a firm reminder by school staff. If the behaviour persists or is judged to be deliberate the student will be given a warning and, if the behaviour continues, other sanctions will be applied (see below).

#### **Hand washing and hygiene**

It is expected that all students follow all handwashing and hygiene routines while in school. If a student has a medical condition which means that they cannot use the soap or hand sanitiser provided by the school they must bring their own. Gloves, because of the potential increased transmission of the virus, are not recommended inside the school premises. On arrival at school, students will be asked to remove these and dispose of them in the designated bin.

Government guidelines recommend the use of a face-covering on public transport, but this is not deemed to be necessary or beneficial in the school environment. Face masks will only be worn by staff who are required to be in close contact with a pupil when, for example, administering first aid.

Any student who does not comply with these routines will be supported through our normal processes as outlined in the behaviour policy.

#### **Moving around the school**

In order to maintain social distancing and to keep the school community safe, there will be specific routes designated for students to move around the school and students will only be allowed in designated areas. These will vary for different groups of students in order to minimise the risk of infection between groups; therefore, it is very important that each student stays in the area to which they have been designated. Certain areas of the school will not be accessible to students as they have been cleaned and prepared for other students and staff.

Students may not enter an area that is marked as closed. They must not 'visit' other students in different groups or enter areas that are designated for other groups of students. This applies to indoor and outdoor spaces. At all times, students must adhere to directions given to them by staff. Any student who does not comply with these routines will be supported through our normal processes as outlined in the behaviour policy.

## **Feeling unwell**

We are very clearly asking all parents/carers not to send unwell students, or students displaying symptoms of Covid-19, into school. If a student begins to feel unwell at school and is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 they must tell a member of staff immediately.

## **Specific incidents of unacceptable behaviour**

Whilst rare, specific and serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy do sometimes occur. The school's Behaviour Policy contains information about some of those issues. There are however, some specific breaches of *this* policy that will be treated as 'high risk' during these new, temporary arrangements and therefore dealt with more seriously. The safety of the whole school community is paramount and therefore any deliberate attempt to compromise the safety of any student, staff member or visitor to the school will not be tolerated. Examples might include, but may not be limited to:

- Persistently touching someone or their personal belongings in an attempt to cause distress;
- Any other inappropriate physical contact;
- Persistent failure to follow instructions given by staff which relate to social distancing, hygiene or safety measures;
- Spitting at another person;
- Deliberately coughing at another person;
- Any other deliberate behaviours that put themselves or others at risk.

## **Support for students**

Southend High School for Boys acknowledges that students will have had a range of different experiences during the lockdown period which may have an impact on their behaviour presentation upon return to school. Some may be very excited to see friends but others may present with frustration as a result of being isolated from friends or having missed a significant event or experience; e.g. exams, school trip, etc. Some students may have experienced bereavement or loss or other traumatic episode. For many, the process of re-engagement with learning and the school community under unusual circumstances may require some additional input and encouragement. We will give additional support to students as needed and will refer to outside agencies where necessary.

## **Behaviour rewards**

Staff will use rewards to encourage students and recognise their achievements. Some of the usual rewards may no longer be possible (e.g. access to school trips, special assemblies etc.) however, many of the rewards that teachers currently use will still be in place and teachers will be encouraged to continue to use these. They include, although are not limited to:

- Merit Marks
- House Credits
- Postcard Home
- Praise phone call home

## **Behaviour sanctions**

Sanctions will continue to follow the procedures outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy. However, during the time of partial opening, detentions will not be set. All issues of misconduct will be recorded on Go4Schools.

For more serious incidents, where the student can no longer remain in the class, or when additional support is required, the duty member of SLT will be called.

## **Exclusions**

If an incident is serious enough to warrant an exclusion the school's Exclusion Policy will apply.

## **Uniform**

The expectations regarding uniform have been set out in the information sent to parents. Full 'summer' uniform is to be worn by all students. Students are advised to wash their clothes as regularly as possible. Students who breach the uniform expectations will be asked to address the issue immediately and if this is not possible, or if they refuse to comply, they will be sent home.

**Monitoring arrangements**

We will review this policy as guidance from the local authority or Department for Education is updated, and as a minimum every 4 weeks by the Deputy Headteacher.