



ORCHARD MANOR SCHOOL

**CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 BEHAVIOUR AND
WELFARE POLICY APPENDIX**

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1ST 2020

For the duration of this pandemic, Orchard Manor School fully recognises the following:

- That this pandemic is a challenge to emotional wellbeing, resilience and mental health and that this could negatively affect behaviour.
- That the operational changes that are required to enable of school to function in a safe, socially distanced way at all times could potentially exacerbate / heighten student anxiety and have a negative effect on behaviour.
- That this pandemic has restricted the opportunities and resources usually deployed by the school to engage, motivate students and help them to self-regulate / manage their behaviour.
- That this pandemic has restricted all close physical contact strategies (contingent touch to; reassure, pacify, gain attention or encourage, to guide or when required the use of restrictive physical intervention) that staff need to deploy on occasions to either give positive / appropriate affirmation, or, when required, to safely manage escalating potentially dangerous situations.

The school also acknowledges that for the duration of this pandemic, it must operate on a temporary but necessary different basis to ensure:

- The ongoing safety and wellbeing of all students, staff, associated people and visitors to our school sites.
- That student behavioural needs are matched to the safest possible way to maximise each student's individual learning opportunities on a personalised basis and that this may mean learning is safer at home.

Temporary expectations include:

- Following altered routines for arrival and 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 following specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing, lunch routines)
- Expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Telling an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- Rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- Amended expectations about break and play times, including where children may or may not play
- Use of toilets and cloakroom facilities
- Clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person

The school 'Behaviour and Welfare Policy' still applies during this temporary period, however thresholds for application of rewards and sanctions may need to be considered and applied differently to take into account the following:

- The raised anxieties and increased pressures placed on students, their families and staff by this pandemic.
- The restricted opportunities and options that are currently available within school.

The school will balance its duty of care for each individual considering their needs against the duty of care it has for the wider school community. As such positively moving from a school-based learning package to a home based one as a positive / pre-emptive option where feasible, rather than deploying a negative sanction may be applied.

The use of exclusion will be considered where students' behaviour is placing themselves and/or others at serious risk of infection and/or injury. This would apply either:

- when reasonable adjustment has been made and other more positive options have been attempted but have not been successful, or;
- where a one-off situation is so potentially risky / dangerous that immediate action is required to ensure the safety of the individual or members of the wider school community.

The school will continue to provide a welcoming, positive, supportive, caring and personalised approach at all times, whether students are learning on-site or at their homes. It will also continue to take the following 'Duty of Care' approach when considering how to apply the new necessary thresholds for the application of this policy:

“what would the reasonable person have done, or not done, in the circumstances of this particular incident”