



## COVID-19 Behaviour Policy Addendum

**Addendum applicable during coronavirus (COVID-19) period of full reopening (from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020)**

### Context

This addendum is intended to cover the additional considerations to student behaviour caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unless otherwise covered here, our normal [Behaviour Policy](#) continues to apply. Any additions or amendments listed should not in any way override or diminish an individual's responsibility to safeguard children and to act in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.

It is the belief of all staff that students at The Matthew Arnold School understand the need to take extra precautions at this critical time; it is our intention to work with them in a collaborative, cooperative and guiding manner to ensure students remain healthy and continue to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Sanctions will be taken in an objective and measured way; however, the health and safety of all remains paramount.

The staff undertake to work in a proactive way with families and outside agencies as necessary to support those children for whom the following additional expectations to normal behaviour prove particularly challenging, and to help them to find coping strategies. This includes children with extra physical, learning and emotional needs. We are proud to be an inclusive school and we want children to be in school and learning wherever possible.

### Additional COVID-19-related expectations

The school expects that students should:

1. Understand the responsibility they have as members of a community to work collaboratively and maturely to reduce the spread of the coronavirus
2. Not attend school if they experience symptoms of coronavirus
3. Follow any altered routines for arrival or departure. This includes:
  - a) Delayed (20-minute) start or finish to school day according to year group
  - b) Arrival at/exit from either the Kingston Road or Edinburgh Drive according to year group
  - c) Prompt but not excessively early arrival to school
  - d) Departure and dispersal within 5 minutes of end of school day
  - e) Ensuring that all rules are followed when using public transport
  - f) Respect for the feelings of the local community
4. Follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
5. Follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
6. Follow instructions on who students can socialise with at school (bubbles)
7. Move around the school following specific instructions (for example, changing classrooms, emergency procedures, use of zones, lunchtime routines and queuing)

8. Tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
9. Bring school-provided equipment and books to school every day, and follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
10. Follow amended expectations about break times, including altered times and zones according to year group where students may or not be present
11. Use designated toilet facilities in a thoughtful and hygienic manner
12. Not deliberately cough or spit at or towards any other person, or use any other gesture intended to convey or mimic the deliberate passing on of the coronavirus
13. Not act or speak in a way intended to exploit the coronavirus pandemic to cause anxiety or confusion, or in a way which deliberately wastes time
14. Wear and handle face coverings correctly and in all designated areas according to school guidelines

### **Rewards and sanctions**

We manage our expectations of children's behaviour by giving them a clear framework within which to work. This is more important than ever, given the extra limitations on students' actions. We will continue to operate our system of rewards and sanctions (see Appendix 1), with increased emphasis on rewards for contribution to the school community. We will likewise continue to use the 4R classroom management process. If a child has to be removed from a class, he or she will remain after school (afternoon to be arranged and communicated to parents and carers) to ensure time for reflection is given and that reconciliation between the child and the member of staff concerned can take place.

Mary Gould  
Headteacher

August 2020

## Appendix 1

### Rewards and sanctions

The reward system at The Matthew Arnold School focuses on student attendance, effort and achievement. Students are rewarded for work or participation that demonstrates a high level of commitment or sustained effort. When a member of staff rewards a student beyond verbal praise, this is recorded and each student builds up a reward profile over the year. Achievement is measured in a Rewards Ladder, which is published and celebrated in assemblies and by participation in special trips and events. Each term a student is nominated by their head of year to receive a Headteacher Award.

The following are the non-negotiables of students' behaviour in school in all circumstances:

- They adhere to seating plans
- They are well-mannered
- They come equipped
- They wear the correct uniform
- They follow instructions
- They are prompt and take responsibility for their behaviour for learning
- They work hard throughout the lesson.

If students do not adhere to these expectations, teachers use the **4R** system:

- **Remind** the student clearly of the expectations
- **Relocate** the student to another seat in the room (if possible)
- **Remove** the student. Send another student to a colleague who will come to your room and remove the student
- **Reconcile** with the student. A removal always incurs a 45-minute detention after school on the following day\*. This is the opportunity for reconciliation.

\* While students remain in bubbles and zones, detentions will be held separately by year group, and some flexibility in arranging them will be necessary.