

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL



Addendum to the Behaviour Policy

September 2020, COVID – 19 Response

"If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples"

(John 13:35 GNB)

Introduction

In the present situation caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic, it is necessary to have provision for temporary amendments to the School Behaviour Policy to ensure the smooth running of the school as well as the Health and Safety of all members of the school community. Many of these amendments will reflect the Risk Assessments which the school is obliged to carry out in preparation for the reopening to the whole school. The Risk Assessment can be found on the school's website.

Our school Behaviour Policy will still apply and elements of it are determined by the Legal Framework. For example, powers to search and confiscate will not change and regulations regarding exclusions.

Students are expected to behave as well and as positively as at any previous time, exhibiting respect and courtesy to all in the school community. Good work and best behaviour will be expected and rewarded as usual. Students should be able to enjoy their day, to flourish in their studies, to enjoy the company of their friends and to benefit from social interaction.

However, the pandemic and the Government guidance places certain limits on the normal operation of the school and the behaviours of everyone in the community.

Changes to normal school routines and expectations

For the good of our community we expect our students to act in a responsible manner to protect others. The following new routines and clarification of expectations are designed to support students to achieve this. We still expect all students to observe the normal school rules, follow instructions at all times and work together to create a positive and safe school environment.

1. 'Bubbles'

- In order to receive all students safely back to school in September 2020, students will be placed in 'bubbles' based on year groups in most cases and the school sites will be 'zoned' to accommodate these bubbles. This principle will allow the school to meet guidelines on safe return for all and must be adhered to at all times to maximise the health and safety of all.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered and taken in Year bubbles. Students must remain in their bubbles and not mix with students from outside that bubble.

2. Maintaining Social Distancing

- Students must stay 2 metres away from staff at all times and 1 metre away from other students at all times that this is possible

3. Movement around the site

- Entrances, corridors and staircases will operate on a strict one – way system.

- Students will be given this information on their first day when returning to school. Staff will supervise corridors immediately adjacent to their classroom doors. Duty staff will supervise key positions around the sites.
- It is very important that students move swiftly, following any social distancing or safety guidelines, to their lesson room at the start of the day and after any breaks.

4. **Maintaining Hygiene**

- Handwashing must be carried out by students as directed;
 - before school
 - before and after all breaks.
 - after some lessons where equipment has been used such as in practical subjects
- Students must comply with good respiratory hygiene expectations by using for example the 'catch it, bin it, kill it', approach.

5. **Lanyards**

- All students will be issued with a colour – coded lanyard to assist with the identification of their year group. This lanyard must be worn at all times during the school day, unless otherwise directed by staff.

6. **Face coverings**

- Government guidance says that students and staff do not need to wear face coverings in school. This is because of the other measures in place that help to limit the risk of spread of the virus while in school. Also the wearing of face coverings for a full day is uncomfortable and it does make it harder to communicate.
- We do understand, however, that some students may feel reassured by wearing face coverings so we are not banning them. We simply expect that students respect the decisions of individuals whether to wear face coverings or not as wearing them is not advised under the current public health guidance for schools and so is optional.
- If students are travelling to school by public transport and choosing to wear a face covering in school, they must still remove the face covering that they have worn on the bus and either dispose of it or put it in a sealed bag inside their school bag. They then would need to wear a different covering in school.
- Any face coverings worn around the school must be worn correctly. Inappropriate images/slogans on coverings is not acceptable and students will be asked to remove them.

7. **Public Transport**

- Students are asked to sit where possible in year group bubbles on the school service buses to and from school
- The highest standards of behaviour are expected as usual on public transport whether they are school service buses or regular public transport.
- It is a requirement that face coverings are worn on public transport.

8. **Equipment**

- Students are expected to be fully equipped for every lesson with a bag. Students cannot share any items of equipment and if students require specialist equipment they will be given it, with every consideration given to ensuring hygiene.

9. **Occasions when students may be out of class**

- Except for using toilet facilities, no student will be allowed out of lesson without good reason (which may include medical conditions made known to the school), and must have a note from a member of staff.
- Where students normally use 'time out' passes, specific arrangements will be agreed with the member of staff responsible for issuing the pass.

Maintaining positive behaviour

The main focus for all staff will continue to be on creating and maintaining a positive atmosphere around school.

- Staff will continue to acknowledge positive A2L via verbal praise, contact home and the **SMHW praise system**

Challenging and unsafe behaviour

If a student is exhibiting challenging or unsafe behaviour, staff will use the usual classroom management strategies. Wherever possible students will be given choices and the opportunity to improve their behaviour.

- Students who fail to cooperate in class or are not in a suitable frame of mind to be there, will be asked to stand outside the classroom door for a short period of time to calm down. Staff will speak to them with the aim of enabling them to return to class. If this is not possible, the student will be removed from class for the remainder of the lesson.
- Fighting is never acceptable and in this time of COVID, it puts students and staff at even greater risk. We expect students to take positive steps to avoid tensions coming to a head and to encourage others not to get involved in conflicts or fights. We expect students to seek help from staff if they or others are involved in conflict that they feel may lead to a fight. If a fight happens, staff have to take extra precaution in intervening to protect themselves and others. Because of the increased risk and because we are not able to safely provide space in school away from others during lessons or social times, it is more likely that we will consider temporary exclusion from school for anyone involved in a fight (including any who were involved in inciting a fight). This will extend until such time that we are confident that the students involved, have shown that they understand that they have made a bad choice and that they are committed to working with staff to ensure it never happens again.
- If a student repeatedly fails to adhere to the expectations outlined above despite the efforts of staff, or acts in a deliberately dangerous manner, we may have to temporarily remove their right to attend school, while we work with their family to find a positive way forward.
- Exclusions for not maintaining social distancing will only be for persistent breaches, where it can be evidenced that the young person has repeatedly been notified of the schools' expectations. Consideration will be given for pupils with SEND where they are unable to understand the expectations.
- **Threatening to infect others with Coronavirus. Any behaviour deemed to be deliberately intended to compromise the health and safety of others, or to threaten to do so, even in jest, will result in immediate removal from the School and may result in further immediate and serious sanctions up to, and including, permanent exclusion. Spitting, sneezing or coughing with the threat to spread coronavirus could result in a student being prosecuted.**

School response to challenging and unsafe behaviour

We are proud of the behaviour of our students as we see young people making really good choices to make our school a happy and safe place where young people can learn. When students do make the wrong choices, our expectation as a school is to bring about a change in that behaviour and we expect all members of the community, staff and students to support in that with a spirit of forgiveness and support for that change in behaviour. We also expect any student who has made a wrong choice to respond to reminders, commit to working with support to change any pattern of poor behaviour and to understand that, while others can help them, no one else can take responsibility for their choices.

We do not believe in punishment, but there are occasions when we have to use sanctions and consequences both to help students recognise that they have made a poor choice and to ensure that students are safe and can learn. With the added health risks associated with COVID-19, there are times, for example, when a student may have to be

temporarily excluded from school if they are not showing respectful and positive support of the expectations we have in place to keep people safe. The aim here, as with any steps we take in response to poor behaviour choices, will be to work with the student and family to be able to have confidence in their choices so that we can welcome them back in school as quickly as possible.

The adaptations we have made to this policy are based on the most current government guidance which is under constant review and may be subject to change.