

COVID 19 School arrangements for Behaviour

Annex 1

September 2020

1. Context

From 20th March 2020, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Balnamore Primary School, Behaviour Policy contains details of our individual arrangements in the following areas:

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Context

At Balnamore Primary School, we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other. Whilst expectations in the current Behaviour Policy remain pertinent. It is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments for the safety of all pupils and staff. These adjustments are set out below:

Staff Conduct and Wellbeing

The school's usual staff code of conduct is still relevant in the new school scenario. Staff are working in a new way, following new guidelines and their mental wellbeing is paramount. Staff have been consulted over the school's risk assessment and allowed to voice concerns over returning. The school's opening plan has taken into consideration staff viewpoints and union guidance. Staff will always work in pairs within groups to ensure they are supported by another and are able to take their break. Staff have been directed to mental health resources that can support them if needed and the school has a designated Mental Health Lead by the school's Principal Avril Wilson should staff require individual support.

Staff must adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules in place and remind children of these where needed, for their and the children's safety. It does state in Government guidance that children might not be able to maintain 2 metre distancing. Staff must take care to make sure that children follow this with regards to themselves, with gentle reminders. There may be times when children go to staff upset and need to be comforted in an age appropriate way. Communal areas such as staff toilets and the staffroom must be used by a limited number of staff at once. Two per toilet area and four/five per staffroom.

Staff must continue to adhere to the Government guidelines about social distancing outside of school, in order to protect themselves and other members of the school community.

Pupil Conduct and Wellbeing

The school's usual behaviour rules for pupils are still relevant in the new school scenario, however, there are additional rules and routines pupils must now be aware of and follow (see page 6). Any pupil unable to follow the school's current and amended rules will be unable to attend the school setting.

Pupil wellbeing is paramount during their time in school. Children will be anxious over having missed school and their friends, ongoing news about the virus, bereavements and more. All children will be in small groups and have two adults to safeguard them during their time in school. Part of the children's curriculum will be PD&MU to discuss their worries and concerns.

Parent Conduct and Wellbeing

Parents have been updated and consulted throughout the period of school closure. Teachers regularly update the website to support parents in home schooling. Parental feedback has also led to changes in the home learning as an ongoing process. Parents have received regular letters from the Principal informing them of the latest Government advice/guidance and school's planning.

Parents of pupils who have returned/are returning to school have received clear guidance on the expectation upon them. Parents will be given a specific drop off and collection time and be advised about social distancing. Parents are aware that they are NOT allowed into school at this time.

Parents are able to communicate with staff via the school office and through Seesaw

Online Safe Behaviour in School

The school's current acceptable use policy and E safety policy is still in place. Children are supervised using laptops/digital devices and only set work using teacher approved sites.

Online Safe Behaviour at Home

Resources about keeping children safe online have been shared with parents. The school staff set work through the school website. Staff are not interacting with children in any 'live' lessons. If interacting with other children or staff online, children (and staff) should always be kind and respectful to each other and respectful and obedient to staff, remembering at all times that that staff are not 'friends' with, or peers to, pupils. Any inappropriate comments to staff online, via email, or any other platform will be taken very seriously. This is also the case of for any online bullying towards other pupils or peer-on-peer abuse that is disclosed to the school during this time.

Changes to School Rules and Routines

Arrivals, Departures and Moving round the school

Children will enter school through their designated entrance. Children will enter individually and will go straight to their designated class, keeping a 2m distance from any other individual.

At their designated home time, children will leave the building from their designated exit. They will leave one at a time when their parent has come to collect them, again keeping their distance using the markers on the floors as a guide.

Movement around the school will be limited. When the children leave their classroom to go outside for breaks or outdoor learning, they will ensure to keep 2m from peers and adults. Children will follow an adult from their classroom on their designated route.

Handwashing and Hygiene

Children will be expected to follow all handwashing and hygiene routines while in school. Children will wash hands/use antibacterial gel as entering school, before and after eating and at regular intervals during the day.

We ask children to follow the catch it, bin it, kill it, mantra when in school, if they need to cough or sneeze, they should use a tissue or crook of their arm (like Batman). Children will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes while at school.

Should a child refuse to follow these routines they will be unable to attend school.

Social Distancing

Children who are old enough, will be expected to socially distance from their peers and adults in school. When children enter their classroom, they will be expected to go straight to their table and nowhere else in the room. Children will put their hand up if they need an adult's support, they will not get out of their seats without asking.

We understand socially distancing may be more difficult for younger children; they will be encouraged wherever possible to keep a distance from peers and adults, however, we understand this may not always be possible.

Toilets

Each group will have their own toilets to use. Children will only use the toilets one at a time and be supervised by an adult through the corridors. When a child has finished in the toilet, they must wash their hands.

Break and Lunch times

Break will be eaten in classrooms or outside if weather is permitting. Children will eat at their table or

in their designated outside space. Children will have a designated place to play during break times. They will have their own equipment that will be cleaned after use.

Children will be expected to remain socially distant from both peers and adults during break times.

Lunch will be eaten in their classrooms. Children will eat at their table or in their own space. Children will have packed lunches they have brought in or had provided through school.