

Behaviour Policy addendum: Covid-19 protocols

At St Martin's Catholic Academy, we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which students are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other. Whilst expectations in our Behaviour Policy remain pertinent, it is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments for the safety of all students and staff.

Movement around the school

Upon arrival, students will go straight to their form bases. Movement around the school will be limited. When the students leave a classroom to go to another classroom or outside for break/lunch, they will follow the markers on the floor to ensure they follow designated routes. During break/lunch, they will also be required to keep to designated bubble areas, with each bubble limited to members of a specific year group.

When bubbles converge to line up for the bus, all students must wear face masks.

Personal responsibility

Students will be expected to tell a member of staff if they are unwell and are exhibiting signs of Coronavirus by raising their hand. Students must have a responsibility for their own equipment e.g. water bottles and ensure that these are not shared with other students.

Students will be expected to follow all hand washing and hygiene routines while in school. Students will wash hands after using the bathrooms and, at the direction of the teacher, use antibacterial gel at the start of each lesson. All students and parents have been advised of the need for students to have an adequate supply of antibacterial gel with them every day. We ask students 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. Students will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes while at school. Should a student refuse to follow these routines, disciplinary procedures and sanctions will be used (see below).

Toilets

Each bubble will have designated toilets to use during the split breaks/lunches. Students will be encouraged to use the toilets one at a time (though this may not always be possible). When a student has finished in the toilet they must wash their hands.

Behaviour in school

For as long as safety restrictions and requirements are in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Academy will reinforce expectations around Covid-19 protocols through its rewards and sanctions systems. Since the keeping open of schools is contingent upon their being a safe environment for students to learn in and staff to work in, any and all observed or (accurately) reported breaches of such protocols will be addressed. Where such breaches are minor and seemingly a case of students simply forgetting about a particular protocol (e.g. walking the wrong way along a one-way corridor that was, prior to the protocol, a two-way corridor), students will receive a verbal reminder about the new protocol and, assuming a timely and conforming response, will not be penalised. **This does not include students not having hand sanitiser, which students have been advised is now among the items they need to bring to school with them every day.** Deliberate breaches of such protocols

will always be penalised, however, with the severity of any sanction put in place dependent on the seriousness and/or persistence of the offence. Such breaches include (but are not limited to):

- Crossing bubbles in order to socialise with friends in a different bubble
- Not bringing hand sanitiser into school
- Deliberately breathing/coughing into someone's face

Students not following the new protocols will ordinarily be subject to the behaviour and sanctions procedures as outlined in the main body of the Behaviour Policy. We are mindful, however, that a return to a formal school environment after such a prolonged absence will constitute a difficult readjustment for a number of students. As such, we will be compassionate in our response to students who are struggling to readapt and work with them to help them see the importance of and follow our protocols. Even so, compassion for students struggling to follow protocols cannot be a justification for risking the health, or even lives, of other students and the wider community, so sanctions will be used where necessary.

Rewards

All instances of deliberate breaches of our Covid-19 protocols will be logged in the behaviour section of our SIMS system. At the end of each half-term, a report will be run to identify those students who have no recorded breaches. These students will be awarded achievement points and acknowledged in their form groups. Staff will also be encouraged (via regular emails, briefing announcements and the example of the SLT) to offer verbal encouragement/praise to students when they see them complying with the new Covid-19 protocols.

Students with Special Educational Needs

St Martin's 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 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. Others may have experienced bereavement or loss or another, real or perceived, 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. As a result of these varied experiences students may present with behaviour that is not usual, this may include:

- Anxiety; lack of confidence
- Challenging behaviour; fight or flight response
- Anger; shouting, crying
- Hyperactivity and difficulties maintaining attention

For some students, including those with attachment concerns or SEN, and especially those with autism, the change in routines and lack of familiarity will require additional adjustment. We recognise that behaviour could be a sign that for some individual students there is an unfulfilled need and that the behaviour is communicating that there is a problem. The school will undertake an individual risk assessment for the child and use *reasonable endeavours* to make the necessary adjustments to reduce the stimulus that may be triggering the challenging response. Students with SEN are recognised as being particularly vulnerable and therefore have an urgent need to be re-integrated back into school as soon as reasonably possible. School will work closely with parents to implement supportive strategies that will inform an appropriate response. If necessary school will seek external support from other agencies such as Educational Psychologists or Early Help.

Students working from home

If interacting with other students or staff online, students should always be kind and respectful to each other and respectful and obedient to staff, remembering at all times that staff are not 'friends' with, or peers to, students. Students should never attempt to contact staff via social media or make comments about staff on social media platforms. 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 students or peer-on-peer abuse that is disclosed to the school during this time.