



Addendum to Ark Atwood Behaviour Policy – May 2020

Key Contacts

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This document sits alongside the Ark Atwood Behaviour & Discipline Policy.

It covers the period of the phased school reopening, which is expected to be from 1st June 2020, until such time as the government restrictions on social distancing, increased hygiene requirements and other measures are relaxed or altered substantially.

The Behaviour & Discipline Policy can be found here: <https://arkatwoodprimary.org/policies/page>

Following the new guidelines (issued by the government w/c 11th May 2020) our existing policy requires significant amendments to reflect the changing setup in school.

The Department for Education guidelines can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

It will be extremely challenging to implement social distancing in primary schools especially in Early Years. Guidance from the Department for Education and Ark Schools recommends 'class sizes of 15 but not enforcing social distancing within that small class group at primary level. The principle is to limit contact and mixing between different small class groups but not between pupils within a small class group.' To this end, we will proceed with children allocated to 'bubbles' of no more than 15. These bubbles and the adults will remain together and will not mix with other bubbles at any point during the day.

On top of these distancing requirements, we will also introduce enhanced hygiene measures and will be making substantial amendments to the school timetable and layout.

This document provides information, guidance and clarity over the management of behaviour in schools during these unprecedented times. This addendum will be active from 1st June and will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team on an ongoing basis. The information contained within this Addendum supersedes any contradictory information that exists in the current behaviour policy up until the point where the Academy, in conjunction with Ark Schools, choose to revert to the original policy.

This Addendum contains further details of our arrangements for pupil behaviour with revised procedures from the government, in the following areas:

- Behaviour
- Sanctions and Rewards
- Reasonable adjustments

Behaviour

This policy will be shared with all families prior to children returning to school. In addition, families of year groups returning will receive a letter detailing the specific arrangements in place so that these can be discussed with their child before returning to school. On arrival, children will be briefed on the specific expectations regarding behaviour.

Rules and Expectations

We expect pupils to follow instructions from staff in school. This is particularly important at this time as not doing so could compromise the safety of themselves and others. Therefore, in addition to the current behaviour policy expectations the following rules will apply:

- **Observe social distancing** Pupils are expected to try to maintain a distance of two metres where reasonable. Exceptions to this include young children and children with special educational needs who may not be able to understand the need for social distancing and may also seek close interaction with their peers or adults to provide reassurance at a period of significant disruption to their routines - please refer to the reasonable adjustments section. Any physical confrontations will carry a higher immediate sanction than previous escalation due to contravening social distancing and safety
- **Observe good personal hygiene** Pupils must wash hands thoroughly and often as instructed by a member of staff. Pupils must also ensure that they manage their respiratory hygiene effectively. This includes when sneezing and coughing pupils must 'catch it, bin it and kill it'. Spitting is not allowed on the school grounds and will be sanctioned accordingly. If a child poses a significant risk to others safety by spitting, that child will have to remain at home to ensure the safety of the school pupils and staff.
- **Pupils must only interact with others in their bubble.** Pupils must remain in their bubble and not mix with children from other bubbles whilst in the school. Any student leaving their 'bubble' would receive a serious sanction as this would represent a major breach of the new guidelines – this would compromise our ability to have students safely on site.
- **One way systems around the school building.** Pupils will be expected to follow guidelines and markings (with adult direction) to move around the school building. For example, the main staircase is 'up' only and the back staircase is 'down' only.

It is important that school considers how to encourage pupils to learn and practice the new routines and habits. This is a priority for the phased return for each year group.

We are aware that the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents in a way that affects behaviour. Government guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

This document sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state and how this can be reflected within the approach to behaviour set out in the government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-in-schools>

Sanctions and Rewards Our academy ethos of encouragement and its place at the heart of the promotion of good behaviour remains. Rewards are an excellent positive way of achieving this. Equally, sanctions are needed to respond to inappropriate behaviour. Some examples of

inappropriate behaviour may receive a significantly increased sanction than was the case prior to the pandemic crisis.

The Headteacher reserves the right to refuse a child entry to the school if (i) the child has behaved in an unacceptable way that severely compromises the revised restrictions or (ii) he does not have confidence that the child will abide by the restrictions going forward.

Rewards The table of rewards in our Behaviour and Discipline Policy has been revised:

Reward	How does it work?	Frequency
House Points	These are given for a variety of good behaviours around the school where children are making good choices, demonstrating the school values etc	Daily
Stickers	Quick and easy rewards, using stickers, will be issued to praise children for meeting expectations	Daily
Celebration Postcards	These are given out by SLT members for exceptional work quality	Daily
Scholar of the Week Certificate	One child from each bubble will be nominated from each class per week	Weekly (shared in bubble)

Sanctions Although rewards are central to the encouragement of good behaviour, realistically there is a need for sanctions to register the disapproval of unacceptable behaviour and to protect the health, security and stability of the school community. Some sanctions have been elevated to reflect the greater need to mitigate risk.

Pupils who are unable to adhere to the rules and expectations, and in doing so compromise the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others, could be asked to continue their learning at home. Where required, sanctions may extend to exclusion for a fixed term and, in the case of persistent breaches, a permanent exclusion. The health and wellbeing of all adults and children on site is the most important consideration and any behaviours that compromise this must be addressed immediately.

The table below sets out sanctions for some behaviours and the recommend sanction. This list is not exhaustive.

Behaviour	Sanction	Sanction if behaviour is persistent
Not following the one-way system	Spoken to by a Senior Leader	Asked to work away from school for a specified period
Spitting	Spoken to by a Senior Leader and phone call home.	Asked to work away from school for a specified period (<i>in this case, persistent is defined as spitting a second time</i>)
Refusal to wash hands when requested	Spoken to by a Senior Leader and phone call home	Asked to work away from school for a specified period
Leaving the bubble (except when going to the toilet). This includes visiting other parts of the site when supposed to be in the toilet	Spoken to by a Senior Leader	Asked to work away from school for a specified period
Being disruptive in class bubble	Spoken to by class adult.	Spoken to by senior leader. If behaviour persists following conversation with senior leader, the child will be asked to work away from school for a specified period.

A reintegration meeting will be held for children returning to school following a period learning at home.

Reasonable adjustments

These new guidelines will be challenging for some children to manage. It is only right that reasonable adjustments are drawn up in the implementation of these new rules and expectations. Some children will return to school having been exposed to a range of adversity including bereavement and long term anxiety. This may lead to an increase in social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) concerns. Additionally, where children have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their provision has been disrupted during partial school closure and this may impact on their behaviour.

To ensure that any risk to both themselves and other children and adults on site is mitigated as far as possible, risk assessments will be created to set out the adjustments that will be put in place.

New guidance regarding risk assessing SEND pupils has been published by the Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance>

Positive Handling Plans/Use of reasonable force

Pupils with a current Positive Handling Plan or requiring positive handling will require a risk assessment to identify what mitigations need to be put in place on return to school (e.g. staffing, location, resourcing). In some circumstances, staff may need to increase their level of self-protection (e.g. if the pupil is known to spit or bite when dysregulated) in-line with the protective measures in the guidance.

We reserve the right to refuse onsite provision for pupils whose behaviour presents a danger to others.