

Addendum to Epsom College Behaviour Policy

Covid-19

Introduction

The principles as set out in the Epsom College Behaviour Policy remain and should continue to be followed. This addendum should not be used as a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with the existing policy which is available [here](#).

This addendum sets out the expectations of the College in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for children to behave differently when they return to school. It describes the new systems in place and how our pupils will be supported in order to adhere to them.

This addendum follows the advice and guidelines provided by the DfE and also by Surrey County Council.

Expectations of Behaviour:

All pupils and parents have been informed of the change of routines and the expectations the College has of pupils who are returning to school. This has been communicated to parents and pupils in advance of the return to school and they have been asked to confirm their adherence to our expectations.

These expectations are available [here](#)

These include, but are not exclusively, as follows:

All pupils on site are expected to:

- Follow the published altered routines for arrival or departure.
- Follow instructions on hygiene, such as hand washing and sanitising.
- Follow the clear instructions with regard to keeping within the small groups (or ‘bubbles’) to which they have been assigned for lessons, breaks, lunch and other free time. It is most important that social distancing is adhered to appropriately.
- Move around the College site as per specific instructions – for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing, use of toilet facilities etc.

- Follow expectations about sneezing, coughing tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and to avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with hands.
- Tell an adult **immediately** if they experience any symptoms of coronavirus.
- Follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items, including drinks bottles.
- Follow amended expectations about movement and conduct during breaks between lessons, morning break, lunch break and co-curricular activities. In addition, pupils are not allowed to enter their Houses, unless they have the express permission of their Housemaster or Housemistress to, for example, collect any items they may have left at school and wish to take home.
- Follow clear rules regarding coughing or spitting towards any other person.
- Follow the same rules as set out for remote learning while at home with regard to safe online practice.

The College's Rewards and Sanction protocols will continue as usual.

All teaching staff have been asked to operate a "light touch" approach, but deliberate, and persistent, breaking of social distancing rules will be treated seriously. This may, ultimately, result in a pupil being asked not to return to school whilst the current expectations are in force so as to protect the welfare and Health & Safety of all.

All pupils will be supported in the following ways:

- Throughout the College there will be signs/posters/visual prompts to remind pupils and staff of the new safety measures in place that should be followed.
- All teachers will explain new routines sensitively and clearly, and help pupils to feel safe and reassured by the rules in place.
- Reminders will be given at the start of every day and, as necessary, throughout the day.
- There will be constant, and visible, staff presence at each break between lessons, morning break, lunch and at arrival to and departure from school each day.
- All adults will explain hygiene rules and provide reminders throughout the day.
- Whilst new expectations are established, we will focus on new routines, safety and the well-being of our pupils.
- Pupils will be encouraged to share their concerns, either with the teacher responsible for their lesson, with their Housemaster / Housemistress, tutor, DSL or any other responsible adult in school, either in person or by email communication.
- Teaching staff will pay particular regard to families and pupils who are classified as clinically vulnerable so that appropriate additional support is put in place to reduce anxiety in any given circumstance.

- All our usual systems for affirming our pupils' good behaviours will continue, with a particular focus on 'Staying Alert' and 'Being Kind' behaviours.
- For pupils who are not managing for any reason to follow our clear expectations we will follow the process as detailed in the previous section and apply our usual sanctions as appropriate.
- If, despite all appropriate support and guidance, a pupil repeatedly breaks our current safety rules, the Headmaster may, as a last resort, consider alternative arrangements or exclude a pupil for a fixed period.

Support for pupils who have additional or special educational needs:

- Pupils will have their individual support plan/proactive behaviour plan /risk assessment reviewed in light of the new circumstances.
- If there are concerns that appropriate support is not possible during this period, despite reasonable adjustment, a meeting will be held with parents (and relevant external professionals) to discuss next steps and what additional adaptations may be possible to ensure the pupil can manage his/her behaviour safely.

Positive Touch and Physical Intervention:

There may be times when a pupil's behaviour requires staff to use physical intervention to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or that property is not seriously damaged.

The College will be guided by the following principles in these circumstances, in line with the advice from the Surrey Accredited Training Centre:

- Given the current pandemic, staff will also need to consider the possible risk of infection if they physically intervene, contrasted with the possible risks of infection should they not intervene.
- Any decisions made should be in accordance with Public Health and Government guidelines on Covid-19.
- Advice remains firmly focused on restraint reduction. The emphasis is on de-escalation, reducing triggers, and early interventions to manage risk.
- When deciding to use restrictive interventions, any such restriction must be a last resort, reasonable, and proportionate action.
- Staff need to ensure their decisions consider the risks of doing something contrasted with the risks of doing nothing.

- Schools should continue to explore non-restrictive alternatives that maximise safety and minimise harm at the point of risk behaviour.
- At the heart of all decisions is our desire to maintain the Care, Welfare, Safety and Security of everyone, staff as well as pupils.