



Behaviour Policy Addendum

Covid 19: REMOTE LEARNING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

May 2020

A. Introduction:

The nature of learning has changed rapidly in recent weeks and will change again as the government implements the changes required to bring children back to school over an appropriate period.

i. Remote learning:

Remote Learning is likely to be an important part of the education process for a long time to come. Schools may be required to shut down for extended periods in the future to manage isolated outbreaks of coronavirus and it is important that we set out clear expectations for online learning both now and for the future.

ii. Social distancing and safety:

In addition, for those attending school it is right that everyone both feels safe and is safe. To that end, schools in the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust will work to the highest standards of care and the measures in this addendum to each school's policy is intended to support the safety of all.

B. Behaviour and Remote Learning:

As outlined in other policies, it is expected that all students will maintain the highest standards of behaviour whilst online. The Headteacher of each school has full discretion to define and specify remote online behavioural breaches and to issue reasonable and proportionate sanctions accordingly.

These are likely to include:

- a. Anything that disrupts the learning of others
- b. Anything that causes distress or offence

Sanctions for breaches could include:

- a. Temporary or permanent suspension of school email accounts
- b. Temporary or permanent suspension of access to school online platforms
- c. Temporary or permanent barring of access to interactive or other online sessions

Given the nature of such transgressions and the need to protect both the alleged transgressor and others from further difficulty, the Headteacher has full authority to issue sanctions immediately pending fuller investigations, if necessary, once the school is operable.

If a pupil is reported as having breached the behaviour policy or this addendum, then:

- a. The teacher must inform the relevant pastoral leader
- b. The pastoral leader will inform the relevant member of SLT
- c. The Headteacher will deal with the most serious cases where approached to do so by members of SLT

All sanctions available to the Headteacher may be considered for, amongst others, breaches of the following nature:

- a. Any attempt at sabotaging the learning in an interactive online lesson, however brief or seemingly trivial
- b. Joining an interactive online session without a prior invitation/due authorisation from the teacher
- c. Sharing passwords to engage in interactive or online education with those who are not members of the class, without due authorisation from the teacher
- d. Attempting to, or succeeding in downloading illicit or inappropriate material onto school platforms, or during live sessions
- e. Attempting to, or succeeding in gaining control of a teacher's home-screen
- f. Other breaches of cyber security or the stability of the online platforms
- g. Using immature or inappropriate 'nicknames' when logging on to interactive sessions
- h. Engaging in immature, offensive or inappropriate online 'chat'
- i. Not observing appropriate boundaries when interacting online with teachers
- j. Using school IT systems – including MS Teams – to establish non-transparent 'chat' channels – i.e those channels that may be used without the clear identification of the user and with clear age appropriate safeguards
- k. Recording and distributing audio sessions in breach of a teacher's and other pupils' data protection rights

Police action will also be considered for the most serious breaches.

C. Social distancing and safety

While the coronavirus may be of less risk to younger age groups, it is not without risk. Moreover, for many students attending our schools they will live with or may have contact with others who are at greater risk. This is particularly the case for members of the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic community where there is evidence of significant harm. It is a matter of public health and equality that we seek to follow the guidance issued by the government.

Government guidance will change as the pandemic progresses and the school approach and rules are likely to change too. The following is an illustration of the school's response to deliberate and wilful transgressions of social distancing and safety rules in school.

i. Persistent breaches of social distancing and safety rules:

Step 1 - Any student who is old enough and has the capacity to understand the rules around social distancing and refuses to do so or wilfully ignores the rules, will be removed from the class pending a (remote) meeting with their parent / carer.

Step 2 - Any student who continues to refuse to follow the rules or continues to wilfully ignore rules will be subject to a fixed term exclusion.

Step 3 - Any student who persists in refusing to follow the rules after step 1 and 2 will be subject to the full range of sanctions available to the Headteacher.

- The management of Steps 1 – 3 will vary according to the individual needs of the child, the age of the child and the capacity of the child to understand the rules in place.
- The health and safety of children and staff will be our priority, and this may mean, with limited social contact permitted, that adjustments for students are more limited than might normally be the case. The school has a duty to limit the social interactions of:
 - I. The child who may be the transgressor
 - II. Others who may be affected by the actions of the transgressor

It will not be possible for students to enter different social groups or work with multiple members of staff and this will significantly limit the capacity of the school leaders to apply bespoke solutions for different children.

Where such breaches take place on a school bus, the student will be banned from using the bus for a specified period of time.

ii. Serious breaches of social distancing and safety rules

The Headteacher has the right to interpret incidents of serious magnitude as a serious breach of the school behaviour policy. Any person who would seek to spread fear and anxiety by claiming to have the virus / claim to have been exposed to the virus with the intent of causing distress to others will have committed a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy.

It should be noted that it does not matter whether this happens during school time / at a later point in time, on the school site / somewhere else, or online / in person.

The Headteacher has the right to use the full range of sanctions in response to a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy.

The Directors, St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust

May 2020