

Addendum to St. Anthony's School Code of Behaviour with regard to COVID-19 risks:

Rationale:

We aim to maintain a happy, healthy, and safe learning environment in which children are encouraged to have respect for themselves, each other and for school staff. To assist us in this, we have a robust code of behaviour, primarily focused on promoting positive behaviour.

St. Anthony's Special School is proud to have a very respectful and considerate school community. It is important that provision be made to discourage behaviours that are now, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, considered inappropriate or potentially dangerous to the health and safety of others.

Updated August 2020:

All members of the school community, staff, pupils, and visitors are expected to:

- Follow HSE guidance instructions on hygiene, such as hand washing and sanitising
- Use elbow or a tissue to cover mouth & nose when sneezing or coughing
- Dispose of tissues properly
- Avoid touching mouth, nose, and eyes with hands
- Inform the Principal if experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus

Additional Pupils' Responsibilities:

- Follow altered procedures and instructions for safe arrival and departure from school
- Follow instructions around bubbles, pods both in class and during breaks
- Stay in seat as much as possible (raising hand to seek attention)
- Only share equipment by direction of staff
- Keep their work area neat and tidy
- Not share drinking bottles, food, etc
- Use toilets one-at-a-time, ensuring hands are washed properly (20seconds, with soap) and dried before returning to their place

Additional Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities:

- Follow altered procedures for arrival and departure or collection of children from school
- Support the school by reinforcing guidance and teaching children hand hygiene, personal distancing, and respiratory etiquette
- Stay outside of the school building except where they have made an appointment by phone or email to meet staff
- Keep pupils who are unwell at home, informing the school by email/phone of the type of illness being experienced, until a full recovery is made. It is especially important not to send a child who is unwell to school as this places everyone else at potential risk. We do not know if a cough or sneeze is COVID or a mere cold, but we cannot risk the health and safety of the school community by having ill children attend school. All children presenting with COVID symptoms will be sent home and asked to remain at home until they have been checked by a doctor as per our Covid-919 response plan.
- Always keep their mobile phone ON while children are in school in case the school needs to contact parents urgently to collect child if unwell or if a case arises in the school. Inform school if mobile contact changes during year.
- Be available or arrange to have someone available to collect children if there is a need to send them home due to COVID-19 circumstances arising in the school or on the school bus transport.

Additional Staff Responsibilities:

- Adhere to and follow all guidelines issued by HSE, DES and school COVID-19 Response Plan protocols and procedures
- Encourage and practice personal social distancing in all school areas
- Keep the work area and school materials and equipment clean and tidy and disinfected regularly.
- Ensure pupils practice hand hygiene at all appropriate times (before eating/when entering classroom/after toileting/after using shared equipment/etc)
- Teach pupils to co-operate and learn the new routines and hygiene practices and support their re-connection with school life in a positive, empathic way.
- Liaise with Lead Worker Representative on any issues of concern that need to be brought to management

It is the aim that all staff and parents will ensure that pupils are taught the procedures set out above and that pupils will be encouraged and supported at all times to follow such procedures in a calm, supportive and proactive way so that potential risks are minimised.

However the following behaviours will be considered as misdemeanours under the code (whether minor, serious, or gross will be determined contextually), due to their potential impact on the physical and psychological health, safety and wellbeing of other members of the school community:

- Deliberately ignoring guidance on:
 - personal space and distancing
 - hand hygiene
 - respiratory etiquette (e.g. failing to cover mouth/nose when coughing/sneezing, not properly disposing of used tissues, etc)
 - zones at playtime for pods/bubbles
- Coughing or spitting at or towards any other person
- Any deliberate action, which may endanger the safety and wellbeing of others through physical proximity or respiratory behaviour
- Any accidental action, persisted in after instruction or correction by staff, which may endanger the safety and wellbeing of others through physical proximity or respiratory behaviour

The consequences for such behaviours which put the health and safety of others at risk will be as already set out in the Code of Behaviour but parents need to know that due to the increased health & safety risks associated with COVID-19 such behaviours listed above cannot and will not be tolerated and swift action will be taken to emphasise how serious such behaviours are and the consequences of engaging in such behaviours.

It is possible that parents of children who engage in behaviours as set out above will be contacted to collect their child from school if the behaviour is persistent despite all staff attempts to reduce the behaviour(s).

Parents and children will be required to read, accept, and agree* to the above specific measures to assist with maintaining the school to be a happy, healthy, and safe learning environment for all pupils and school staff.

**This agreement will be contained in the Return to School Declaration Form for Parents
which will be sent separately*