

Covid-19 Appendix to behaviour policy May 2020

Office use

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Associated documents:			
Behaviour policy			
Links to:			



Diverse
Academies

The existing Diverse Academies Trust behaviour policy already covers expected standards within each of our academies, and these remain unchanged. Alongside the overarching Trust behaviour policy lie local academy arrangements.

This behaviour appendix should be read in conjunction with individual academy Covid-19 risk assessments, safeguarding procedures and local health and safety arrangements that academy leadership teams have in place.

Our staff are sensitive to the likely social, emotional, and mental health needs of the returning parents and children. We acknowledge that many will be apprehensive about returning to the classroom.

When exercising judgment in applying the behaviour policy, academy leaders will take into consideration the exceptional circumstances that many of our young people have faced in the preceding weeks and months.

In all cases, professional discretion from the classroom teacher up to and including (where applicable) the Trust's behaviour lead, will be expected.

As we prepare to gradually re-open our academies to more pupils, it is important that there is clarification and standardisation, on expected standards and behaviour across all our academies, when pupils return.

Diverse Academies has a commitment to making each site as 'Covid-19 secure' as possible ensuring that our pupils, our staff, and the wider academy community of families beyond the school gate remain as safe as possible at this difficult and unprecedented time.

The expectation is that all pupils (and staff) returning to school will follow rules and guidance on social distancing in academies and understand what protective measures have been put in place.

These may change as we adjust to the return of more pupils.

Making school safe really matters for everyone and the co-operation of staff, pupils, and parents in ensuring each setting remains so, is the expectation.

In addition to the instruction laid down in the Trust's behaviour policy and local academy appendix:

- For the period June to July 2020 the Trust is suspending a uniform policy for all pupils attending a Primary academy.
- In our Secondary academies, a local decision on the wearing of uniform will be taken and communicated to parents and students in advance of re-opening.

- In the event of a full re-opening - September 2020 – all DAT academies will revert to their usual full uniform policy, which can be found on each academy website.
- The wearing of jewellery stays consistent with the current academy expectations. Hair should be tied back.
- Each local academy, whether Primary, Secondary or Special, will communicate expectations to parents and use professional discretion addressing any issues or needs that arise.
- **There is no change in the Diverse Academies Trust exclusions policy.**
- **Reasons to fixed term and/or permanently exclude remain current, and at the discretion of the Principal/Senior Principal exercising professional judgement.**
www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion/changes-to-the-school-exclusion-process-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak
- **Diverse Academies follows the recently revised arrangements set out in the above document for the *administration, consideration and appeals* of any exclusion event during the period 1 June 2020 to 25 March 2021 inclusive.**
- Where a child deliberately uses Covid-19 risk of infection as a threat or actual event, for example deliberately coughing over someone, this will be treated as a serious breach of the behaviour policy, the local academy appendix and local academy Covid-19 risk assessment.
- In addition to the triggering of instant hygiene and isolation procedures, full sanctions may apply, up to and including permanent exclusion.
- The usual disciplinary procedures would apply for any transgression of normal academy expectations. However, we encourage academy leaders, Principals and Senior Principals to exercise professional judgement on each case as they arise, taking into account the exceptional circumstances and the likely social and emotional impact that a considerable time away from a formal classroom/setting is likely to have had – particularly on younger, and more vulnerable children.
- Where parents/carers or other responsible adults do not adhere to local academy guidance – particularly around social distancing and congregating on or near to the academy – the expectation is for the leadership team (and where necessary with the support of the Trust) to communicate expectations.
- Repeated failure to adhere to the health and safety guidelines – specifically those around containing the virus – may necessitate measures to remove (temporarily) or ban (permanently) individuals from the respective academy site. In these extreme cases the leadership will consult with the Trust’s central team to trigger the order.

Diverse Academies always follows the latest guidance from the government.

Should anyone show any signs of Covid-19, they will not remain on the academy site.

Department for Education guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19

What to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at an educational setting

If anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in an education setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

Diverse Academies will, at all times, implement the latest government recommended steps to make our settings as safe as possible. Anyone showing signs of Covid-19 will be dealt with as promptly as possible. The test and trace strategy will be applied to the relevant setting on confirmation of a positive test for coronavirus.

The standards of behaviour outlined in each academy risk assessment, the Trust behaviour policy and appendix reflects the needs of the whole community. Everyone's support is necessary to make sure that our steps to manage this process are as effective as possible.

The Covid behaviour appendix to the Behaviour Policy will be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that each DAT academy follows the latest DfE guidance regarding the return to schools from September 2020.