

Addendum 1

Behaviour policy addendum in light of COVID-19 at Samuel Whitbread Academy

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

On 10th May 2020, the Prime Minister announced the Government’s intention to start to reopen schools using a phased approach from 1st June 2020, if the Government’s tests are met. This means that students in Year 10 and 12 have the opportunity to access face-to-face support. The measures that will need to be implemented to keep students and adults safe will mean that specific student guidance is required to communicate expectations of behaviour and the consequences for students putting others at risk. It aims to support staff and student understanding of our high expectations in ensuring everyone is safe during this time.

This addendum is to be read in conjunction with the behaviour policy.

This addendum of the Samuel Whitbread Academy behaviour policy (found on our website) contains details of our arrangements in the following areas:

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Expectations

The existing rules for Samuel Whitbread Academy will continue to apply through the phased reopening of school. We are proud of our high expectations and will continue to maintain these. Any student that endangers others with their actions will be dealt with seriously, as outlined in this addendum. Any parent contact mentioned below will be conducted remotely in all but exceptional circumstances.

If not mentioned below, the existing policy for behaviour will apply, including during periods of remote learning.

Onsite conduct of students

Specifically, the Department for Education has provided guidance which suggests that schools make the additions to their behaviour policy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools#annex-a-behaviour-principles>

We continue to take the welfare and safety of our students and staff extremely seriously and as such compose this addendum to include the importance of these following areas in light of COVID19. Those on site will be required to:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- follow instructions on who students can socialise with at school
- move around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- Abide by social distancing rules
- Abide by the expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- understand the rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- understand the amended expectations about breaks, including where students may or may not go
- understand the rules around the use of toilets
- understand the clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person

This will be communicated to students and reiterated throughout this period, as advised by the government. Please see section below "consequences and sanctions" for those not adhering to the government guidance above.

Online (offsite) conduct of students

All students should continue to adhere to the principles outlined in the Behaviour Policy. In particular, students should be mindful of the following:

1. You should be respectful and kind to all.
2. You should be safe, responsible and courteous at all times.

Students should never attempt to contact staff via social media or make comments about staff on social media platforms. Any inappropriate comments to staff online, will be taken very seriously and could result in a referral to the police. This is also the case for any online bullying towards other students or

peer-on-peer abuse that is disclosed to the Academy during this time. Students should be aware of the following:

- Students' behaviour and comments should be exemplary, reflecting how they would behave in a lesson.
- Students should address teachers and refer to peers as they would do in a classroom setting.
- If any student behaves inappropriately, they will be muted from conversations and parents will be informed. An appropriate sanction will be decided (as outlined in our behaviour policy) in conjunction with the head of year and senior team member leading on behaviour.
- Students are prohibited from taking screenshots, recording lessons or engaging in private chats during online lessons.
- Students working in the Academy during this time should adhere to the Academy Behaviour policy.

Failure to comply with the high expectations outlined above will result in sanctions from Annex 1 of the behaviour policy being applied or sanctions and consequences highlighted below as appropriate.

Sanctions and consequences

All staff and students have the right to feel safe and secure at school and when working remotely and so Samuel Whitbread Academy will adhere to the strategies outlined in Annex A of the behaviour policy if a student is not able to follow the expectations outlined in the policy and in the addendum.

The school will make the systems of keeping staff and students safe very clear to students and parents at the start of the school's phased reopening. The importance of these systems will be shared with all.

Students who fail to follow the new school systems of social distancing, group isolation, sharing of resources etc. will be reminded in the first instance of the reason for the system. If this continues, the student will be isolated to work elsewhere in school and their parent/carer will be informed. If the student were to repeat this offence a fixed term exclusion could be used and a risk assessment could be carried out to gauge whether the child is safe to be educated on school site.

If actions are deemed deliberate (upon thorough investigation), the most severe sanctions will be applied. We will consider making alternative arrangements for your child. This decision is the responsibility of the Principal.

Students who fail to follow the online (offsite) guidelines could have their access to their school account limited and be required to work on paper. This is in keeping with the "acceptable use policy". Abuse towards staff and students will not be tolerated.

The severity and inflexibility of these sanctions reflect the potential consequences of not following governmental social distancing and hygiene guidelines. Samuel Whitbread Academy takes its responsibility for the safety of staff and students, and the contribution that it must make to the safety of our local community, very seriously.

All sanctions related to other infringements of the school's rules remain appropriate as outlined in the main Behaviour Policy.

Addendum added: 20th May 2020

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