



Expectations for the autumn term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Wessex is committed to the safeguarding of learners and staff, particularly as it relates to the current COVID situation, and as such I write to highlight some key expectations for behaviour in accordance with our reopening plans for September.

Each of our schools will have their own bespoke risk assessments and arrangements that mitigate against the risks of COVID according to the needs of those sites and buildings.

Schools' *behaviour policies* have been amended to reflect the need to mitigate against spreading the virus. These policies will safeguard all people in school and will relate specifically to being upfront about behaviour patterns by learners that are not acceptable which could put other learners at risk. Staff in school will be adhering to similar measures in order to protect learners and fellow staff.

The expectations for Parents (from each school) will broadly say:

- If your child, or anyone in your household shows symptoms of COVID-19, we expect you not send them to school and that you will self-isolate as a family. You will need to get your family tested and let the school know the outcome soon as possible via telephone
- If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school, you will be expected to collect your child from school immediately. You will need to get them tested and let the school know as soon as possible via telephone of the outcome
- If you drop your child off and pick them up from school, you will need to adhere to the social distancing rules and leave the school site as quickly as possible
- If you are dropping off and picking up, you will need to stick to the school timings or any amended timings, for your child
- Your school will be strict about what items your child can bring into school. This is to mitigate against the possible transmission of the virus on objects from home
- Unfortunately, you will not be allowed into the school without a pre-arranged appointment in order to safeguard our learners and staff
- Please support all staff in their efforts to create an 'as safe as possible' environment during this time

The expectations for Learners (from each school) will broadly say:

- Learners will need to stay within and follow the 'bubble rules'
Learners will be expected to sanitise / wash hands as soon as they get into school
- Learners need to tell a member of staff if they feel unwell
- Learners are not to bring items from home into school, or take things from school to home, unless specified (specified items may include a learner's own pencil case with pen, ruler etc)
- Learners are not mix with any other learners from outside their bubble
- Learners can only enter and exit the school premises and buildings from those which have been designated
- Learners will follow the catch it-bin it-kill it rules coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue
- Learners will regularly wash their hands using soap and water / sanitise throughout the school day



The schools' behaviour policies will broadly say the following:

If a learner accidentally breaks or disregards the safeguarding guidelines and expectations, for example, if a child unintentionally breaks social distancing advice, puts items in their mouths (pens, jumpers etc), or is not following instructions given by adults or is not following hygiene rules, the following action *may apply*:

1. Friendly warning will be given, and a reminder of the rules discussed
2. Firm warning will be given, and a reminder of the rules given again and notice that a concern will be logged if the behaviour is repeated
3. The learner *may be* required to be sent home in order to protect other children. Parents/Carers will be contacted, and a conversation will be held about how the child can be supported to return to school safely

If a learner wilfully puts or threatens to put the health of others at risk, for example, threatens to cough, spit, lick, break social distance, or not follow hygiene or other instructions, then the following sanctions *may apply*:

1. The learner will be isolated until a parent/carer can come to collect them. A conversation will be held with parents/carers about how the child can supported to return to school safely
2. If unsafe behaviour continues upon the return to school, the school will discuss provision for the child to continue their education at home through home learning during the COVID-19 crisis

We fully understand that this has been a difficult time for all, and that everyone is keen for children to be back in school and learning. Our prime Trust objective is that we keep everyone as safe as possible and mitigate risk. Much thinking and planning has taken place across the Trust schools in anticipation of our students returning to ensure that we are doing so in a safe manner, and within the current parameters and measures that we must be mindful of.

I wish to thank you again for your work with us during these testing times, and for your understanding of our decisions and expectations.

Yours sincerely,

GAVIN BALL
Chief Executive