

## Astrea Positive Behaviour Policy 2020 - 2021

### Annex – COVID -19 Additional Information for behaviour policy

Updated 04/01/2020

**School Name: Astrea Academy Sheffield**

**Date: 4/1/2021**

**Date shared with staff: 4/1/2021**

#### **1.Context**

This document provides information, guidance and clarity over the management of behaviour from January 2021. This annex will be active from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and will be reviewed by Astrea Academy Sheffield on an ongoing basis. The information contained within this Annex supersedes any conflicting information that exists in the current behaviour policy until the point where the Academy, in conjunction with the Trust, choose to revert to the original policy.

This annex contains further details of our arrangements for scholar behaviour with revised procedures from the government, in the following areas:

1. Context and key contacts
2. Behaviour
3. Sanctions and rewards
4. Reasonable adjustments
5. Use of reasonable force/Positive Handling Plans
6. Exclusions
7. Support from Astrea

#### **Key Contacts**

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Behaviour Lead	David Boyd	0114 5539110	dave.boyd@astreasheffield.org
Principal	Emma Glover		Emma.glover@astreasheffield.org
Specialist Leader of Behaviour and SENDD	Naomi Reed	07552995410	naomi.reed@astreaacademytrust.org
Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding	Nicola Crossley	07393237674	nicola.crossley@astreaacademytrust.org

#### **2. Behaviour**

Consistent expectations of behaviour will be clearly communicated to scholars by staff. These revisions are in line with government guidance (updated 31/12/2020) that reflect the protective measures (system of controls) in place. These rules and routines have been introduced to ensure safety for all.

## **Rules and Expectations**

As always, we expect scholars to follow reasonable instructions from staff in school. This is particularly important at this time as not doing so could compromise the safety of them and others. Building the following routines into school culture, supported by behaviour expectations will help ensure scholars and those with SEND understand the need to follow them. Therefore, in addition to the current behaviour policy expectations the following rules will apply:

- **Observe social distancing.** Older scholars will minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible. For scholars old enough they should be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. Exceptions to this include young children and children with special educational needs who may not be able to maintain social distancing and therefore for them it is acceptable not to distance within their bubble - please refer to section 3 that addresses reasonable adjustments.
- **Observe good personal hygiene.**  
**Hands:** Scholars must wash hands/use hand sanitiser thoroughly more often than usual as instructed by a member of staff. This will include on arrival to school, on return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating.  
**Respiratory Hygiene:** Scholars must ensure that they manage their respiratory hygiene effectively. This includes sneezing and coughing, and scholars must ‘catch it, bin it and kill it’. Spitting is not allowed on the Academy grounds and will be sanctioned more seriously than it ordinarily would.  
**Face Coverings (Secondary):** Face coverings to be worn when moving around indoors, such as corridors and communal areas when social distancing is difficult to maintain. Adjustments will need to be made for those scholars who cannot wear a face covering due to a physical or mental illness, impairment or disability.
- **Scholars must only interact with others in their designated bubble.** Scholars **must** remain within their designated groupings/bubble. Scholars will be expected to sit in their designated seating plan. Scholars will be expected to sit side by side and face forward.
- **One way systems around the school building.** Scholars will be expected to follow guidelines and markings (with adult direction) to move around the school building. For example, a one-way circulation, or divider down the middle of a corridor to keep groups apart as they move through the school. Scholars are to only talk in the designated social zones and must not make physical contact with other scholars as per the behaviour policy.

It is important that school consider how to encourage young scholars to learn and practice the routines and habits. Some scholars with SENDD (EHCP/SEND support) will continue to need specific help and preparation for the changes to routine that this will involve, so the SENDCO and teacher should plan to meet these needs, for example using social stories. (Please refer to the SENDD Information Report Annex for further guidance).

We are aware that the current circumstances can affect the mental health of scholars and their parents in a way that affects behaviour. Government guidance on mental health and behaviour in

schools is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

This document sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state and how this can be reflected within the approach to behaviour set out in the government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-in-schools>

### **3. Sanctions and Rewards**

At Astrea Academy Sheffield we always maintain the highest of standards and expectations of ourselves and our scholars, however, there is nothing more important than safety and the wellbeing of our scholars, staff and the surrounding community members. Scholars will remain in their designated classroom for lessons.

Detentions-

Whilst the National Lockdown is in place, there will be no detentions for the scholars in school. When all scholars return, detentions will start again in line with the behaviour policy. All detentions will initially take place in year group classrooms, however, if scholars are issued a 2-hour detention, the final hour will take place in the referral space. Social distancing has been arranged so scholars from different year groups will always be more than 2m away from one another. Scholars will be escorted to their detentions and to RS to ensure scholars in different year groups have no interaction. Detentions will also have staggered finish times to also support this.

Referral Space (RS)-

Scholars that are required to attend RS will be allocated seats in their respective year groups to ensure safety for all.

Astrea Academy Sheffield may need to consider the elevation of some sanctions to reflect greater need to mitigate risks. Scholars who are unable to adhere to the rules and expectations, and in doing so compromise the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others, could be subject to an exclusion, and persistent breaches may result in a permanent exclusion. This may include-

- Deliberately coughing or spitting at another scholar or a member of staff
- Deliberately touching or tampering with another scholar's possessions
- Damage any academy property or tamper with hygiene stations
- Deliberately entering areas or other bubbles within the academy they have been requested not to enter
- Any behaviour displayed by a scholar that requires a member of staff to compromise social distancing

Rewards-

Scholars will continue to achieve astras which will contribute towards their spendable totals from the Class Charts shop. The rewards policy can be found on the academy website. All rewards will ensure year group bubbles do not interact.

#### **4. Reasonable adjustments**

Reasonable adjustments will be considered in the implementation of these new rules and expectations. Some children will return to school having been exposed to a range of adverse situations including bereavement and long-term anxiety and this may lead to an increase in social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) concerns. Additionally, where children have special educational needs and disabilities (SENDD), the school closure and changes to their routines may have impacted on their behaviour.

With this in mind, Astrea Academy Sheffield will continue to provide additional support to our pupils adjusting to the new rules and routines. We will offer regular time and space for our pupils to talk through their concerns with members of staff. We have a designated lead for mental health who will offer support and guidance for pupils and parents who need the additional support and signpost to appropriate services where necessary. We will use a range of activities including the use of outdoor space to support our pupils in their reintegration back into the learning environment with the recent adjustments to rules and regulations.

At Astrea Academy Sheffield, we continue to work in collaboration with local support services including educational psychologists, social workers and counsellors in order to best support and guide our pupils as they learn how to deal with the changes to their learning environments.

#### **5. Positive Handling Plans/Use of reasonable force**

Ensure that scholars with a Positive Handling Plan have a current risk assessment that clearly identifies mitigations in place to support (e.g. staffing, location, resourcing). In exceptional circumstances, staff may need to increase their level of self-protection (e.g. if the scholar is known to spit or bite when dysregulated) in-line with the protective measures guidance.

#### **6. Exclusions**

An annex to the Astrea Exclusions Policy is circulated separately.

#### **7. Support from Astrea Academy Trust**

Astrea central team will continue to provide updates, support and guidance to colleagues as appropriate.