

# ST.FELIM'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

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## Addendum to Code of Behaviour during Covid-19

### **Rationale**

In light of the need for pupils to be more mindful of attending school during the current Covid-19 climate, this amendment to the Code of Behaviour is required so that pupils will be aware of specific rules on their return to school. Our guiding principle when making any changes or adjustments to this policy is to be able to keep all of our pupils, families and staff safe. These amendments will be communicated to pupils, parents and staff.

### **Note to Parents/Guardians**

Parents/guardians are required to observe and respect all social distancing protocols in relation to any contact with the school. This includes maintaining a two metre distance to other families when dropping off or collecting their children from the school and any contact with the school. All visits to the school are required to be made in advance through the school office.

### **Behaviour Expectations**

Our school requires every member of the school community to observe and respect the principles of social distancing, cough and sneeze etiquette and make every effort to minimise risk to oneself and others.

This requires us to modify some of our behaviours which include:

- amended expectations about breaks or play/lunch times
- clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person
- clear rules for pupils at home about conduct in relation to distance learning
- identify any reasonable adjustments that need to be made for pupils with more challenging behaviour.

### **School Routines and Procedures**

All members of the school community have to be mindful of the following;

- following any altered routines for arrival or departure
- following instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, walking on left of corridors, designated entrance and exit routes and play areas, out of bounds areas)
- rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- use of toilets

## Hygiene and Health Expectations

- following school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- 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

## Wellbeing and Social and Emotional Learning

Our school will provide a safe and pleasant environment and spend a considerable amount of time liaising with pupils on promoting their wellbeing.

This will include:

- Our School's Code of Behaviour including this Addendum
- Curriculum changes to support pupils as outlined in the curriculum guidance issued by DES
- Additional time devoted to in-class discussions on general wellbeing and development
- Additional supports that pupils can access outside of classroom if required

## Pupils are expected to

- Arrive to and depart from school premises at the agreed time
- Proceed to their classroom through the designated entrance
- Follow instructions from staff members on movement throughout the school
- Ask for permission to go to the toilet
- Wash hands thoroughly before leaving home and while in school, wash their hands for at least 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser
- Avoid touching the mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- Remain in their designated seat within the classroom
- Keep a safe distance from other pupils and refrain from physical contact with their peers
- Maintain healthy practise when coughing or sneezing, cover any cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Adhere to rules in relation to toilet visits
- Refrain from spitting or coughing at or towards other pupils and members of staff
- Maintain responsibility for their own equipment e.g. stationery, lunch boxes, water bottles and ensure that these are not shared with other pupils
- Tell a member of staff if they are unwell and are exhibiting signs of Coronavirus.

**The school will explain these rules clearly to pupils at the start of the year and remind them periodically. Class teachers will ensure that the rules are displayed in classrooms and that they are explained to Pupils.**

## Sanctions for unsafe behaviour during the Covid-19 pandemic

Incidents which involve pupils who deliberately fail to comply with instructions on the following list, will be addressed in line with sanctions of our current Codes of Behaviour policy. These include:

- failure to comply with requests from staff to practice social distancing
- behaving inappropriately which causes offence or concern to other pupils and members of staff through pranks or fake coughs/sneezes
- spitting or coughing at other pupils or members of staff
- spreading unfounded rumours or stories that a student / pupils or members of staff have tested positive for Covid-19.

This addendum to the Code of Behaviour was ratified by the Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



Date: 29/09/2020

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Sheanon (Chairperson B.O.M.)



Date: 29/09/2020

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathriona Molloy - Principal