



# Mill Water School

admin@millwater.devon.sch.uk | www.millwater.devon.sch.uk | 01395 568890

## **Temporary Adjustments to Mill Water School Behaviour Policy due to Covid-19 June 2020**

For the duration of this pandemic, Mill Water School recognises that:

- this pandemic is a challenge to emotional wellbeing, resilience and mental health and that this could negatively affect behaviour
- the challenges of operating a school in a safe, socially distanced way could potentially exacerbate/heighten pupil anxiety and have a negative effect on behaviour
- this pandemic is restricting the positive resources and opportunities usually deployed by staff to motivate pupils and help them to self-regulate/manage their own behaviours
- this pandemic is restricting all close physical contact strategies (positive touch, safe escorting, last resort restrictive physical intervention, etc) that staff need to deploy on occasions to either give positive/appropriate affirmation, or to safely manage escalating potentially dangerous situations when all other non-physical options have been exhausted.

For the duration of the pandemic, we will respond to behavioural issues in school using minimal touch. Where appropriate and necessary, we will help pupils to regulate by, for example:

- using a different tone of voice
- activating mirror neurons whereby pupils watch what a member of staff is doing, copy the action, and feel it themselves – ie we hug ourselves, they copy it and hug themselves
- simultaneous cushion hugging
- using weighted blankets
- using contingent touch via, for example, a glove filled with rice.

Staff will wear PPE, including goggles, if there is the likelihood of spitting or smearing.

Social stories and other visuals will be used to help pupils understand the need to stay in one room, socially distance and follow hygiene guidelines.

The school also acknowledges that for the duration of this pandemic, it must operate on a temporary but necessarily different basis to ensure:

- the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff, associated people and visitors to our school
- that pupil behavioural needs are matched to the safest possible way to maximise each pupil's individual learning opportunities on a personalised basis and that this might mean learning is safer at home.

The Mill Water School Behaviour Policy will continue to apply, taking into account the above points, and we will continue to provide a welcoming, positive, supportive, caring and personalised approach at all times, whether pupils are learning on-site or at their homes. We will also continue to take the following 'Duty of Care' approach when considering how to apply the new necessary thresholds for the application of this policy:

"what would the reasonable person have done, or not done, in the circumstances of this particular incident".

Covid-19 Committee Members: Andrew Gardner/Maggie Carter/Paul Charlton  
Lead Covid-19 Member of Staff: Sarah Pickering, Head Teacher