



**COVID-19 school re-opening  
updated social distancing behaviour  
policy  
Whitby Heath Primary School**

**Policy Written: Spring term 2020**

**Policy Reviewed: January 2021**

**Context:** Due to the impact of COVID-19 on how we operate as a school, it has been necessary to update some of our policies.

## **Covid-19 and social distancing**

Although we are working in exceptional times, our first priority remains to keep children safe at Whitby Heath. Therefore, in line with Government guidelines we are implementing a clear approach to social distancing in a number of important areas. This means:

- Sitting children at desks that are at least 2 metres apart where possible.
- Ensuring everyone queues further apart than normal where possible.
- Keeping apart when in the playground or doing any physical exercise.
- Visiting the toilet one after the other.
- Staggering break times.
- Putting distancing guidelines on the floor in corridors and in classrooms where possible
- Avoiding large gatherings, such as assemblies.

In line with this approach, we expect children as well as adults to follow these guidelines. We will support children to do this by discussing them regularly and linking them to our Whitby Heath values.

We recognise that this will be could be challenging in some situations, particularly for younger pupils and those with special educational needs. Staff will implement social distancing measures as far as they are practicably able to, whilst ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for. A separate risk assessment will be carried out for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

There may also be exceptional situations where social distancing is superseded by our duty of care towards them (such as if a child seriously hurts themselves). In these situations, staff will again take all possible precautions, whilst ensuring that these pupils remain safe and are well cared for.

In all other circumstances, the expectation for social distancing and safe behaviour is now an important part of our behaviour policy. This is intended to ensure that pupils can learn and thrive in a positive, orderly and safe environment.

This policy should typically be applied proportionately for younger pupils to encourage positive and safe behaviour rather than to apply sanctions for accidental lapses. For older pupils, there may be situations where they are

deliberately breaching expectations for social distancing and safe behaviour and it is important that staff respond to this consistently. We recognise that to begin with these expectations will be very unfamiliar and so accidental or momentary lapses of social distancing will be dealt with as such. Pupils will be reminded of the expectation and expected to amend their behaviour immediately.

However, if there are instances where pupils deliberately and repeatedly break this rule then this will be considered a clear breach of the behaviour policy. This will be dealt with proportionately and in line with any other breach of the behaviour policy and in accordance with the approaches outlined in full within this policy.