

Code of Behaviour

John the Baptist Community School



Addendum to Code of Behaviour Policy During Covid-19

Rationale:

In light of the need for students to be more mindful of attending school during the current Covid-19 climate, this amendment to the Code of Behaviour Policy is required so that students 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 students, families and staff safe.

These amendments will be communicated to students, parents/guardians and staff.

Note to Parents/Guardians:

Parents/guardians are required to observe and adhere to all social distancing protocols in relation to any contact with the school. They are required to maintain a two-metre distance from other families when dropping off or collecting their children from the school.

All visits to the school are required to be made in advance through the school office. Parents/Guardians must email the school administration office if their son/daughter needs to leave during the school day. Email info@johnthebaptistcs.ie stating the exact time they intend to collect the student. On arrival at the school, Parents/Guardians can buzz for reception at the main door and must remain outside the building and adhere to all social distancing protocols, in accordance with Covid-19 regulations.

If a parent/guardian, a student or a member of their direct family have travelled from a country not on the 'Green List', you must self-isolate for a period of 2 weeks and must NOT come to school.

Student Wellbeing:

During these challenging times JTBCS aims to provide a safe and pleasant environment for its students, placing special emphasis on student wellbeing. The curriculum will support students during SPHE, PE, Religion, CSPE and Wellbeing classes. The school Chaplain and Guidance Counsellors are also available as a support to students.

Behaviour Expectation:

Our school requires every member of the school community to observe and respect the principles of social distancing, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette and make every effort to minimise risk to oneself and others. This requires us to modify some of our behaviours.

Students will be informed of these changes on their return to school and will be reminded periodically by their Class teachers, tutors and Year Heads. These changes are deemed essential to ensure the safety of all and failure to adhere to them will attract the school's sanctions.

(A) Temporary Protocols due to Covid-19

- JTBCS permits students to alternate daily between full school uniform and PE uniform to facilitate cleaning of clothing.
- For the duration of the pandemic students can wear a non-uniform jacket to facilitate regular changing and washing of clothing.
- Students are asked to increase layers and are not permitted to wear hoodies inside school uniform.
- Due to limited parking capacity, students will not be in a position to park on school grounds for the current year.
- Educational outings are currently prohibited due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The guidelines will be continually monitored, and it is hoped that educational outings such as visits to exhibitions, museums, factories, etc. (c.f. Health and Safety Policy) may be restored during the 2020/2021 academic year.

(B) Movement and General Practices throughout the School:

- Students must enter and exit the school through their designated Year group entrance.
- Students are required to use hand sanitiser each time they enter and exit.
- Students are required to stay within their year group/pod. Pods are located separately from each other, with their own specified entry and exit point.
- When moving throughout the school students and staff are required to walk on the right-hand side of the corridor and to follow the one-way systems that are in place. These are clearly outlined. Within the main building students and staff are required to walk up the main stairs and down the two side stairs by Rm 29 and Rm24. These are also clearly outlined with arrows.
- Students must keep a safe distance from other students and refrain from physical contact with their peers.
- Students are expected to proceed to their designated classroom and to their designated seat without delay.
- Students must sit in the seat allocated by their class teacher.
- The seat and table must remain positioned on the marked areas.
- Students must maintain responsibility for their own equipment e.g. biros/pencils or other items, stationery and water/drinks bottles and ensure that these are not shared with other students.
- If sharing practical equipment in optional subjects, please adhere to cleaning guidelines for that subject.

(C) Expectations During Breaks or Lunch:

- Break and Lunch times will be in designated areas for each year group, as explained to students on their first day of returning to school. Year groups/pods are required to stay in their designated year group area during break and lunch, unless using the bathroom in their pod.
- Split lunchtimes have been introduced to reduce contact between students, and therefore minimise the potential for the spread of Covid-19.
 - 12.25pm – 3rd Year
 - 13.05pm – 1st, 2nd, 5th & 6th Yr

- 13.40pm – Transition Year

- If eating or removing their mask while on break/lunch/mask-break, the students must stay a minimum distance of 2 metres from one another. With a mask on, students must stay a minimum distance of 1 metre apart.
- Students have a designated entrance and exit point, based on their year group. They must follow the protocol for entering and exiting the school premises at the start and end of the day, as well as the school yard during break and lunch times. This will be outlined to all students.
- On wet days, students with blue dots on their desk, 2m from other desks, will remain in the class to eat their lunch, while the others will eat in covered spaces e.g corridor, which are set out with 2m markings to ensure physical distancing. It is recommended that students only remove masks for a maximum of 15minutes while eating lunch when indoors to limit risk of virus spreading.

(D) Respiratory Etiquette:

- Students are required to wear a mask/face covering at all times; while in class or moving throughout the school campus, including on buses, travelling to and from school.
- Students are entitled to a short mask break during class times, at their individual request, adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Re-usable masks must be cleaned appropriately in accordance with HSE guidelines.
- Students, if they need to cough/sneeze, must do so into their elbow, while still wearing their mask. They should avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with their hands, and should wash or sanitise their hands afterwards.
- Coughing or spitting towards another member of the school community will be regarded as a serious breach of code of behaviour and an endangerment of the health and safety of another member of the school community and serious sanctions will apply (see Code of Behaviour).
- Chewing gum is banned due to the risk of spreading coronavirus and other infections.
- The sharing of drinks or water bottles is not permitted.

(E) Bathroom Protocol:

There are specific designated toilets for use by each year group, highlighted to students during the first day.

Students must use the designated toilets in their year group/pod area only and must not use the toilet of another year group/pod.

A maximum of two students are allowed to enter the bathroom at any one time and they must adhere to social distancing guidelines, maintaining a minimum distance of 1-metre from each other at all times.

Masks must be worn at all times when using the toilet facilities.

When students are queuing for the bathroom they must adhere to social distancing.

Toilet breaks should be limited to before school and at break and lunch.

(F) Handwashing and Sanitising:

- Students must adhere to the following handwashing and sanitising Guidelines:
- Sanitise hands on entering a room - use the sanitising station inside door of the classroom or personal sanitiser.
- Sanitise their desk and chair using the materials provided.
- Hand sanitise, if required, during class.
- Before leaving the room re-sanitise the desk and chair.
- Sanitise their hands on leaving the room.
- Wash hands with soap and water in accordance with HSE guidelines, where possible, throughout the day.

(H) What to do if Experiencing Symptoms:

- Students are asked not to come to school if they are sick. Infection and viruses e.g Coronavirus can spread quickly through a school environment and so may endanger the entire school community
- If a student feels unwell during school, it is their responsibility to immediately inform their class teacher, who in turn will refer them to the pod

supervisor or management who will escort them to Isolation Rooms and Mr. Wade will be contacted.

Sanctions for Unsafe Behaviour During the Covid-19 Pandemic:

Incidents which involve students who deliberately fail to comply with instructions on the following list, will be addressed in line with sanctions of our current Code of Behaviour Policy.

These include:

- Failure to comply with requests from staff to practice social distancing.
- Failure to wear a mask at required time – on school transport, moving throughout school campus and within classrooms.
- Refusal to follow sanitising protocols.
- Refusal to sit in designated seat in class or moving from that designated seat during class.
- Sharing equipment, books or personal property.
- Chewing gum in school.
- Behaving inappropriately which causes offence or concern to other students and members of staff through pranks or fake coughs/sneezes.
- Spitting or coughing at other students or members of staff.
- spreading unfounded rumours or stories that a student/students or members of staff have tested positive for Covid 19.
- Any interference with PPE in the classrooms or throughout the school environs.