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**Golden National School**

Golden, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

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**Code of Behaviour Policy 2020 / COVID-19 Addendum**

At Golden National School, we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in

which children are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other.

Whilst expectations in our **Behaviour Policy** remain pertinent, it is necessary, in light of the **COVID-19** pandemic, to make some adjustments for the safety of all pupils and staff. It is to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the **Code of Behaviour** and **Anti-Bullying Policy**. These adjustments are set out below:

**Arrivals, Departures and Moving around the school**

Children will enter school through their designated entrance at the agreed time. Children will go straight to their designated zone, keeping at least a 1m distance from any other individual where possible.

At home time, children will leave the school grounds from their designated zone in Assembly. They will leave one at a time, again keeping their distance from other individuals.

Movement around the school will be limited. When the children leave their pod/classroom to go outside for break, lunch or outdoor learning, they must follow their teacher’s instructions and follow an adult from their pod/bubble on their designated route.

Children will be expected to tell a member of staff if they are unwell and are exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus by raising their hand.

Children must have a responsibility for their own equipment e.g. water bottles and ensurethat these are not shared with other pupils.

**Hand Washing and Hygiene**

Children will be expected to follow all hand washing and hygiene routines while inschool. Children will wash hands/use sanitiser before entering school, after returning from the outside, before and after eating and at regular intervals during the day. We ask children to follow the *catch it, bin it, kill it*mantra when in school. If a child needs to cough or sneeze, they should use a tissue or crook of their arm. Children will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes while at school. Should a child refuse to follow these routines, disciplinary procedures and sanctions will be used (see below).

**Social Distancing**

Children from 3rd to 6th class will be expected to socially distance from their peers and adults in school and on the playground/field in line with our school response plan. When children enter their classroom/bubble, they will beexpected to go straight to their table/pod and nowhere else in the room. Children will put their hand up if they need an adult’s support, they will not get out of their seats.

Teachers will ensure that pupils, wherever possible, adhere to social distancing measures. Where older pupils are not complying, the usual disciplinary procedures and sanctions will be used (see below).

We understand socially distancing may be more difficult for younger children, they will be encouraged wherever possible to keep a distance from peers and adults, however, weunderstand this may not always be possible.

**Toilets**

Each bubble (class group) will have their own toilets to use, these will be signposted accordingly. Children will be supervised and encouraged to use the toilets one at a time (this may not always be possible with Infant classes). When a child has finished in the toilet, they must wash their hands.

**Break times**

Children will have a designated place to play during break times. Children must stay in their designated area at all times for the duration of week.

**Rewards**

Teachers and SNAs welcome opportunities to praise individuals for good work, attitude or good behaviour, and show recognition, if these are brought to their attention. Above all, praise and encouragement should be used as much as possible. Walking through school to show their work to the Principal, other adults or other classes for acknowledgement and praise during this time will not be permitted. However, each class will have their own rewards system and Pupil of the week awards etc.

**Behaviour in school**

If a child’s behaviour is deemed high risk, for example, refusing to adhere to safety measures, such as, hand washing, social distancing, remaining in their pods/ bubbles or deliberatebehaviours that put themselves or others at risk, such as spitting or deliberately coughing at people. The following sanctions and disciplinary procedures may be used:

* Conversation(s) with pupil(s) which could include a verbal warning, moving seats iflogistically possible and other behaviour management strategies in line with ourcurrent behaviour policy.
* Once all appropriate behaviour management strategies have been exhausted, contact should be made with the pupil's parent/guardian.
* If the health and safety of other pupils and staff members are put at risk by the pupil not adhering to social distancing measures, then the parent/guardian will be expected to collect the pupil and a fixed term suspension will be applied in line with Golden N.S. suspension procedures.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

Golden N.S acknowledges that children will have had a range of different experiences during thelockdown period which may have an impact on their behaviour presentation upon return to school. Some may present with frustration as a result of being isolated from friends or having missed a significant event or experience; e.g. exams, school trip, etc. Others may haveexperienced bereavement or loss or another, real or perceived, traumatic episode. For many, the process of re-engagement with learning and the school community, under unusualcircumstances, may require some additional input and encouragement. As a result of these varied experiences children may present with behaviour that is not usual, this may include;

• Anxiety; lack of confidence

• Challenging behaviour; fight or flight response

• Anger; shouting, crying

• Hyperactivity and difficulties maintaining attention

For some children, including those with attachment concerns or SEN, and especially those with ASD, the change in routines and lack of familiarity will require additional adjustment. School recognises that behaviour could be a sign that for some individual children there is an unfulfilled need and that the behaviour is communicating that there is a problem. The school willundertake an individual risk assessment for the child and use ***reasonable endeavours*** to make the necessary adjustments to reduce the stimulus that may be triggering the challenging response.

Children with SEN are recognised as being particularly vulnerable and therefore have an urgent need to be re-integrated back into school as soon as reasonably possible. School will work closely with parents to implement supportive strategies that will inform an appropriate response. If necessary, our school will seek external support from other agencies such NEPS and the Early Intervention and School Aged teams etc.

**Pupil’s Working from Home**

If interacting with other pupils or staff online, pupils should always be kind and respectful to each other and respectful and obedient to staff, remembering at all times that that staff are not ‘friends’ with, or peers to, pupils. Students should never attempt to contact staff via social media or make comments about staff on social media platforms. Any inappropriate comments to staffonline, via Seesaw or any other platform will be taken very seriously. This is also the case for any online bullying towards other pupils or peer-on-peer abuse that is disclosed to the school during this time.

**Ratification & Communication**

The BoM officially reviewed the policy on **10th September 2020.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)

Michael Ormond

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary)

James McCarthy

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***The staff of Golden National School thank you for your understanding and co-operation in relation to these Covid-19 specific measures.***