



Mount Tamar  
Aspire – Adventure – Achieve

[COVID-19 Behaviour and Attendance Addendum](#)

To be read in conjunction with:

- Positive Handling Policy
- Mount Tamar Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy

### Context

This addendum of Mount Tamar's Behaviour policy contains details of our individual arrangements for supporting behaviour, staff and families.

Linked with the Government guidelines we have set out key actions.

Key actions:

1. Plan
2. Communicate
3. Be consistent
4. Support
5. Monitor and Improve

**Please refer to our schools COVID-19 risk assessment for more details.**

### Supporting behaviour during COVID-19

In order to better support our pupils during this difficult transition we are adapting our curriculum and timetable. We plan to give pupils the necessary adjusting time to feel settled and safe in school.

There may be times when a pupil, as a result of their complex and challenging special educational needs, requires physical restraint or intervention due to the risk behaviour they are displaying. During COVID-19 staff are reminded to use their training on verbal de-escalation, predict and prevent strategies and identify factors that may cause challenging risk behaviour.

Key considerations:

- Ensure pupils feel safe and listened to in school
- Social distancing and our COVID-19 risk assessment will be adhered to as much as is possible when supporting pupils with behaviour
- Staff are to use de-escalation techniques to predict and prevent potentially escalating behaviour

- If there in an incident where we have a duty of care to help keep pupils safe we may physically intervene/restrain, even with COVID-19
- This may mean that staff will have to intervene without PPE
- As always, physical intervention/restraint will be used **as a last resort if there is an imminent, immediate or significant risk of harm to self or others.**
- Staff wearing PPE (goggles, masks, gloves) will then swap with staff who are physically intervening/restraining
- After physically intervening, staff will wash their hands thoroughly. Pupils will also be encouraged to wash their hands
- As a school we do not want to physically intervene/restrain, however we are aware there may be times where we need to as there is no safer alternative
- There will be a debrief process arranged to plan ahead to support staff and pupils
- Recording and monitoring of incidents will continue as normal using Arbor or depending on the severity of the risk behaviour
- Follow the DfE guidelines around exclusions
- All incidents of holding and incidents with contact must be recorded on Arbor so that we are able to track and trace in a case of positive COVID-19 test.

Staff have a responsibility to assess the risk behaviour being shown and act accordingly ensuring physical intervention/restraint is a last resort, or an emergency strategy to keep people safe. Staff are to question what is in the best interest of the child and/or those around them in view of the risks presented.

Expectations for pupils:

- Where possible follow social distancing
- Support in learning why social distancing is important
- Follow school rules
- Wash hands regularly throughout the day

## Staff training and support

Due to current circumstances, we are unable to MAPA train new members of staff. Staff have been granted with an extension to the expiry of their current MAPA certification. Staff will have input during the INSET days in September 2020 to set clear expectations. Therefore, we will follow these procedures:

- Staff are to predict and prevent as early as possible
- When staff are requiring support with pupil behaviour, they are to use de-escalation strategies best suited to the individual pupil remembering social distance
- Staff to ensure they have PPE on their persons during the school day. The school will provide the required PPE
- Pupils all have risk assessments and need to be monitored closely by their class team with risk assessments regularly updated
- New pupils will have individualised tailored transitions
- Staff who have received MAPA training in the past, will use these principles if needed, as a last resort
- Staff who have not yet received any MAPA training will provide a duty of care. Therefore, physical intervention/restraint will not be used unless the child is at risk of danger e.g. running into a road etc
- SLT and Pastoral team are to support and be available in their designated bubbles to problem solve and support with assessing risk behaviour

The Pastoral team and SLT will work closely with their bubbles to ascertain and alleviate any staff anxieties or worries.

## Supporting families

As a school we are also aware that our families will need support. Families will be communicated with to keep them up to date with the latest school plans according to the Government guidance. We will be aware of key families and will be monitoring them closely. Where appropriate we will signpost families to key support services that are able to add extra support. We will continue to support families in any way that we can.

## Attendance during COVID

The Government has now made attendance mandatory from the start of the new school year, except where statutory exemptions apply. The Government will continue to update schools on the guidance for recording attendance and absence.

As a school we will ensure that parents are clear about when pupils should not attend due to public health or clinical advice and plan a process for keeping absence for these reasons under review, for example when a self-isolation period should come to an end. If pupils are required to self-isolate then they will have access to remote education and that engagement is monitored.

We will resume the expectation that parents will let the school know if a child is unable to attend and the reason. It will be explained to families that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies. The school register will continue as usual and use attendance codes consistently, according to Government guidelines. We will review and monitor registration periods to accommodate for any staggered start times. We will follow our school procedures for pupils that are not present in school.

We are aware that there will be lots of families and pupils with anxiety around returning to school. We will work closely with and support these families and find a way that meets the Government guidelines and the needs of the family.