

OBSERVE RATIONALE

Observing the rules and each other

Conveying the message to pupils to:

Observe social distancing and government guidance, hygiene practices and new daily protocols

Be mindful where visual and alternative communication methods will be required

Some tips are adapted from NCC guide to Promoting Positive Transitions

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Documents/Promoting%20Positive%20Transitions%20COVID-19%20Northamptonshire%20EPS%2004.05.2020.pdf>



TIPS

- Offer children virtual or physical tours of their classroom and school or setting. Introduce teachers or form tutors using video technology to prepare pupils for the educational environment. Offer virtual question and answer sessions
- Acknowledge and directly address concerns. Contacting families or having virtual meetings can give an idea about what their concerns might be. Provide clear information about the type of support and strategies you plan to provide for the pupils on their return
- Offer affirmation messages, e.g. 'we look forward to meeting you' and 'our priority is to keep you safe'
- Signpost parents/carers to resources which they can use at home with their children to reduce potential anxieties
- Promote frequent check-ins within small groups throughout the week e.g. <https://www.carrmanor.org.uk/coaching/>
- Identify alternative means of communication with parents in the absence of hand over contact and at a time of greater need for collaboration.
- Make additional arrangements, perhaps virtual, for students to be able to express worries and concerns with their key adult in school, whether that might be form tutor, class teacher. Identify how to ensure and reassure about confidentiality
- Observe each other – for younger pupils '*don't step on my rainbow*' ask them to imagine that they have a rainbow stretching two metres (modelled) from them. Give them the script '*don't step on my rainbow* to communicate to each other that they are too close or the teacher command '*rainbows* to remind them.

FURTHER WORK

Use different tools to communicate with children with additional needs, such as Social Stories for children with an ASC where required