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Dear Parents,

Upon the return of all pupils at school under very different and restrictive circumstances, our priority is to help and support your child to manage any anxieties and worries they may have about settling back into school and adjusting to the circumstances and challenges we are all currently facing.

With this in mind, we have implemented a school wide support system for all children and I am writing to share information about this approach and the ways this can support your child's emotional wellbeing.

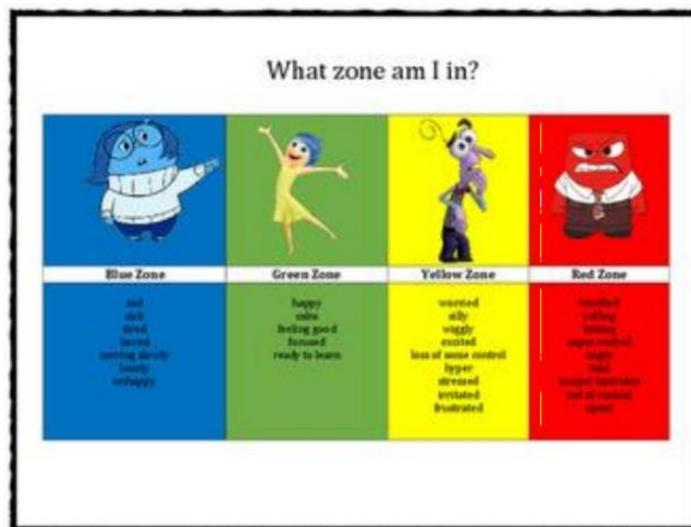
A Guide to 'The Zones of Regulation' A Curriculum Written and Created by Leah M. Kuypers

The ZONES of Regulation® Reproducible E The Zones of Regulation Visual

The ZONES of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	GREEN ZONE Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	YELLOW ZONE Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	RED ZONE Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

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What is *The Zones of Regulation*?

The Zones of Regulation is a curriculum full of structured activities to help your child further develop skills in the area of self-regulation. Self-regulation can go by many names, such as self-control, self-management and impulse control. It is defined as the best state of alertness of both the body and emotions for the specific situation. For example, when your child plays in a football game, it is beneficial to have a higher state of alertness. However, that same state would not be appropriate in a library.

Some of the aims of *The Zones of Regulation*:

To help children recognise when they are in the different Zones and how to change or stay in the Zone they are in;

To gain an increased vocabulary of emotional terms so that they can explain how they are feeling;

To gain insight into events that might make them move into the different Zones eg. disagreement with a friend, a certain subject being taught, a fire drill, worrying about Covid-19;

To help children understand that emotions, sensory experiences, physiological needs (eg. hunger/lack of sleep) and that environments can influence which Zone they are in;

To develop problem-solving skills;

To identify a range of different calming and alerting strategies/tools that support them.

The Zones can be likened to traffic lights, if you would like to see the videos that have been shared with the children in school to describe these zones please follow the links below:

Green: you are 'good to go!'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB6W2VAX2J8>

Yellow: slow down or take warning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfC_GuHiP68

Red: stop and regain control

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pq9hBEvFNIM&list=PLD7C6A74DFECE6B3F&index=1>

Blue: rest area where you pull over when you're tired and need to recharge.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5ze5PfDEzI&index=2&list=PL87B22B04EC463D3B>

Who is *The Zones of Regulation* for?

We need to teach ALL of our children good coping and regulation strategies so that they can help themselves when they experience emotions such as anxiety or stress. Teaching children these tools at a young age will support them in later life.

How will my child learn about the Zones?

The Zones of Regulation programme is advocated internationally, our school is introducing the programme across the school as part of our PSHE curriculum.

Whilst it will be introduced in discrete teaching sessions, the Zones language will be used as part of daily school life. Some children prefer not to use the 'Zones language' but label the emotions directly - this is fine and encouraged!

How can you help your child use *The Zones of Regulation*?

- Identify your own feelings using Zones language in front of your child (e.g. "I'm frustrated, I think I am in the Yellow Zone.")
- Talk about what tool you will use to be in the appropriate Zone (e.g. "I need to take 4 deep breaths to help get me back to the Green Zone.")
- At times, wonder which Zone your child is in. Or, discuss which Zone a character in a film/book might be in (eg. "You look sleepy, are you in the Blue Zone?")



- Engaging your child in discussion around Zones when they are in the Red Zone is unlikely to be effective. You need to be discussing the different Zones and tools they can use when they are more regulated/calm.
- Teach your child which tools they can use (e.g. "It's time for bed, let's read a book together in the rocking chair to get to the Blue Zone").
- Share how their behaviour is affecting your Zone. For example, if they are in the Green Zone you could comment that their behaviour is also helping you feel happy/go into the Green Zone.
- Put up and reference the Zones visuals and tools in your home.
- Praise/encourage your child to share which Zone they might be in.
- It is important to note that everyone experiences all of the Zones - the Red and Yellow Zones are not the 'bad' or 'naughty' Zones. All of the Zones are expected at one time or another.

The children have now experienced a number of Zones lessons and discussed these zones in their classes and are in the process of beginning to create a personalised toolkit to help them within each of these zones. We know from feedback at the gate that many pupils are enjoying 'teaching' their families about this approach and some parents have told us that it has been extremely useful in helping to discuss feelings as a result of disagreements with siblings.

Should you like to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Kind regards,

Louise Walker
Inclusion Manager

