

Statement of Behaviour Principles from the Governing Body – Summer 2023

Background

This statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE guidance. The purpose of the statement is to provide guidance for the Headteacher in drawing up the school's positive behaviour policy for St Mary & All Saints CE Primary School to ensure that there are shared aspirations and principles between the Governing Body, staff, parents/carers and pupils as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters. It is intended to help all staff to be aware of, and understand the extent of, their powers in respect of discipline and sanction and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the Governing Body's support when following this guidance.

The Headteacher has the responsibility for the writing of behaviour policies at the school, although full account should be taken of these principles when doing so. The Headteacher is also asked to take account of the guidance in the DfE publication Behaviour in Schools: a guide for Headteachers and school staff (September 2022).

Behaviour Principles

The Positive Behaviour Policy, together with the Anti-bullying Policy are made available to staff each year. The school's website also publishes these policies. The Governing Body and all school staff strongly believe that high expectations of good behaviour lie at the heart of the school's success. We believe that good teaching and learning promotes good behaviour and good behaviour promotes good learning.

We are committed to improving outcomes for our pupils by providing opportunities for them to learn both academically and behaviourally and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenging life experiences.

Our principles are:

- Every pupil has the right to learn and no pupil has the right to disrupt the learning of others.
- Every pupil understands they have the right to be listened to, to feel safe, valued and respected
- All pupils, staff and members of our school community should be free from discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- It is expected that all adults – staff, volunteers and Governing Body members – will set excellent examples of behaviour to everyone at all times.
- We seek to give every pupil a sense of personal responsibility for his/her own actions.
- The school's Behaviour Policy ensures that there are measures to encourage positive behaviour, self-discipline and respect, and to prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. It also contains guidance on the use of reasonable force. At all times the use of force should be a last resort but governors agree it may be used in the following circumstances (see DfE Use of reasonable force: Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies, July 2013):
 - To prevent a pupil from hurting themselves or others
 - To prevent a pupil from causing disorder or disruption
 - To prevent a pupil from leaving the classroom or school building where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or disrupt others
 - Where there is a risk of significant damage to property

- The school's Behaviour Policy makes it clear that physical and verbal aggression is totally unacceptable. Everyone (staff and pupils) has the right to feel safe and secure. All abusive behaviour (physical, verbal and on-line) will be dealt with bearing this in mind.
- The behaviour policy is understood by pupils and staff
- The exclusions policy explains that exclusions will only be used as a last resort, and outlines the processes involved in permanent and fixed-term exclusions
- The school will seek advice and support from appropriate outside agencies where concerns arise over a pupil's behaviour.
- Families are involved in behaviour incidents to foster good relationships between the school and pupils' home life.
- The school will fulfil its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of safeguarding including potential radicalisation and extremism concerns, pupils with special educational needs and all vulnerable pupils.

Monitoring School Discipline and Understanding Pupil Requirements

It is recognised that on occasions sanctions may be necessary to demonstrate that seriously inappropriate behaviour is unacceptable; to express the disapproval of the community; and to deter other pupils from similar behaviour. The Whole Governing Body will monitor the School in this regard.

It is recognised that sanctions will enable the pupil to reflect upon and learn from their behaviour and make reparation wherever possible. Because of the focus on positive behaviours and the opportunities for pupils to learn from their mistakes, the Whole Governing Body expects lower than the national average rates of exclusion.

Some pupils, for example those with special educational needs, physical or mental health needs can experience particular difficulties with behaviour and the School will seek to ensure that such pupils receive behavioural support according to their need. However, when making decisions the School must balance the needs of the individual with those of the School community and where pupil behaviour places others at risk, the safety of the pupil body as a whole is paramount.

The Governing Body works with all members of the School community to understand the pupils and their circumstances and believe this relationship is an important part in building a strong learning community.

This written statement of behaviour principles is reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Committee every year.