
Behaviour Principles Written Statement



Date : Autumn 2 2018- 2019
Review Date: Spring 2019-2020

Statement of Behaviour Principles

This statement is reviewed regularly and drives review of the schools' Positive Behaviour Policy.

Rationale and purpose

1. This Statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act, 2006, and DfE guidance (Behaviour and Discipline in Schools, updated April 2013).
2. The purpose of the Statement is to provide guidance for Executive Leaders in drawing up the schools' Behaviour Policy so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of governors, staff and parents for the pupils in the schools 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 sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the governors' support when following this guidance.
3. This is a statement of principles, not practice: it is the responsibility of Executive Leaders to draw up the behaviour policy, though these principles must be taken into account when formulating this. Executive Leaders are also asked to take account of the guidance in DfE publication Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: a guide for Headteachers and school staff (updated April 2013)
4. The Behaviour Policy is publicised to staff and families on the school website.

Principles

1. The governors of the Opossum Federation strongly believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enables (a) all the pupils to make the best possible progress in all aspects of their school life and work and (b) all staff to be able to teach and promote good learning without undue interruption or harassment.
2. All pupils and staff have the right to feel safe at all times in school. There should be mutual respect between staff and pupils and between pupils. All visitors to the school should feel safe and free from the effects of poor behaviour at all times and in all parts of the school.
3. Schools within the Opossum Federation are inclusive. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010). The federation has a clear and comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy that is known and understood by all, consistently applied and monitored for its effectiveness. Measures to protect pupils from bullying and discrimination as a result of gender, race, ability, sexual orientation, religious belief (or lack of belief) or background are clearly set out and regularly monitored.
4. Legal duties under the Equality Act, 2010 in respect of safeguarding, pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, and all vulnerable pupils, is set out in the Behaviour Policy and known to all staff.
5. Parents/carers should be encouraged and helped to support their children's education, just as the pupils are helped to understand their responsibilities during their time at school, in the local community and in preparation for their life after school. The responsibilities of pupils, parents/carers and school staff with respect to pupils' behaviour are outlined in the 'Home School Agreement' which pupils and parents/carers are asked to agree when a pupil joins the school.
6. Expectations are clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. This should set out expected standards of behaviour, should be displayed in all classrooms and other, relevant parts of the school and shared with and explained to all pupils. The governors expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff and regularly monitored for their effectiveness.
7. Sanctions for unacceptable/poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and pupils and consistently applied. The full range of sanctions should be clearly described in the Behaviour Policy so that pupils, staff and parents can understand how and when these are applied. The governors strongly feel that exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, must

be used only as a very last resort. 'Unofficial' exclusions are illegal and are avoided. Executive Leaders /Head of School may inform the police, as appropriate, if there is evidence of a criminal act or a fear that one may take place e.g. if illegal drugs are discovered during a search; cyber-bullying; criminal harassment. Sanctions should be monitored for their proper use and effective impact.

8. The Behaviour Policy sets out the disciplinary action that will be taken against pupils who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff. Governors expect Executive Leaders/Heads of School to draw on the advice in Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other staff guidance documents when setting out the pastoral support that school staff should expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers. Staff so accused should not be automatically suspended pending an investigation.
9. The Governors expect Executive Leaders to include the following in some detail in the Behaviour Policy:
 - a. Screening and searching pupils: the reasons for searching pupils should be made explicit, together with details of who may search, where such searching should take place, what will happen to any banned items found as a result of such a search and what sanctions will be applied. It should also be made clear that parents do not have to be informed before a search. Governors would expect authorised staff to be appropriately trained in how to carry out a search.
 - b. The power to use reasonable force or make other physical contact: the situations in which reasonable force may be used (including removing disruptive pupils from classrooms, or preventing them from leaving) should be stated. A definition of 'reasonable force' should be included, which should also explain how and when pupils may be restrained. Governors would expect all staff to be trained in the use of reasonable force and restraint.