

# *St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School*



## *Behaviour Policy (including exclusions and suspensions)*

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| <b>Headteacher:</b> | Mrs E Poulteney | <b>Chair of Local Governing Body:</b> | Mr T Thompson |
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## **Contents:**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Page 3   | Statement of Intent  |
| Page 4   | Legal framework  |
| Page 4-6 | Roles and responsibilities   |
| Page 6   | Definitions  |
| Page 7   | Staff Induction, development and support<br>Managing behaviour   |
| Page 8   | Prevention strategies, intervention and Sanctions  |
| Page 9   | De-escalation strategies<br>Physical intervention  |
| Page 10  | Removal from classroom<br>Sexual abuse and Harassment<br>Smoking and controlled substances   |
| Page 11  | Prohibited items, searching pupils and confiscation<br>mobile phones<br>Effective classroom management<br>Class rules and routines                       |
| Page 12  | Classroom environment<br>Praise and Rewards  |
| Page 13  | Classroom Sanctions  |
| Page 14  | Playground environment<br>Effective pupil support  |
| Page 15  | Behaviour outside of school premises<br>Grounds for Suspension and exclusion   |
| Page 16  | Factors to consider when suspending or excluding pupils  |
| Page 17  | Managed moves<br>Informing parents   |
| Page 18  | Informing Governing bodies and Local Authority   |
| Page 19  | Arranging education for suspended and excluded pupils<br>Considering Suspensions and Exclusions<br>Notification of considered suspensions and exclusions |
| Page 20  | Data collection and behaviour evaluation<br>Monitoring and review  |



## SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT



At St Thomas' we are learning to follow Jesus, showing respect and consideration for ourselves and others. We all have the opportunity to learn and work to the best of our ability in a safe and loving environment.

### Statement of intent

St. Thomas of Canterbury believes that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- Promoting desired behaviour.
- Promoting self-esteem, self-discipline, proper regard for authority, and positive relationships based on mutual respect.
- Ensuring equality and fair treatment for all.
- Praising and rewarding good behaviour.
- Challenging and educating misbehaviour.
- Providing a safe environment free from disruption, violence, discrimination, bullying and any form of harassment.
- Encouraging positive relationships with parents.
- Developing positive relationships with pupils to enable early intervention.
- A shared approach which involves pupils in the implementation of the school's policy and associated procedures.
- Promoting a culture of praise and encouragement in which all pupils can achieve.

Reasonable and proportionate sanctions will be used where a pupil's behaviour falls below the standard that is expected, alongside support to prevent recurring misbehaviour.

The school acknowledges that behaviour can sometimes be the result of educational needs, mental health issues, or other needs or vulnerabilities, and will address these needs via an individualised graduated response.

To help reduce the likelihood of behavioural issues related to social, emotional or mental health (SEMH), the school will aim to create a safe and calm environment in which positive mental health and wellbeing are promoted and pupils are taught to be resilient. The school will aim to promote resilience as part of a whole-school approach using the following methods:

- **Culture, ethos and environment** – the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff is promoted through the informal curriculum, including leadership practice, policies, values and attitudes, alongside the social and physical environment

- **Teaching** – the curriculum is used to develop pupils’ knowledge about health and wellbeing
- **Community engagement** – the school proactively engages with parents, outside agencies and the wider community to promote consistent support for pupils’ health and wellbeing

All staff will be made aware of how potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, including abuse and neglect, can impact on a pupil’s mental health, behaviour, and education. Where vulnerable pupils or groups are identified, provision will be made to support and promote their positive mental health. The school’s Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy outlines the specific procedures that will be used to assess these pupils for any SEMH-related difficulties that could affect their behaviour.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2013) ‘Use of reasonable force’
- DfE (2015) ‘Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’
- DfE (2018) ‘Mental health and behaviour in schools’
- DfE (2021) ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’
- DfE (2022) ‘Behaviour in schools: Advice for headteachers and school staff’
- DfE (2022) ‘Keeping children safe in education 2022’
- DfE (2022) ‘Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for schools’
- DfE (2024) ‘Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement’
- DfE (2024) ‘Mobile phones in schools’
- DfE (2024) ‘Creating a school behaviour culture: audit and action planning tools’

This policy operates in conjunction with all school policies.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board will have overall responsibility for:

- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to, age, disability, gender reassignment, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- Promoting a whole-school culture where calm, dignity and structure encompass every space and activity.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy, as outlined in the school’s Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Ensuring this policy is published on the school website

### **The headteacher is responsible for:**

- The monitoring and implementation of this policy and of the behaviour procedures at the school. This includes monitoring the policy’s effectiveness in addressing any SEMH-related drivers of poor behaviour.

- Establishing high expectations of pupils' conduct and behaviour, and implementing measures to achieve this.
- Determining the school rules and any disciplinary sanctions for breaking the rules.
- The day-to-day implementation of this policy.
- Publicising this policy in writing to staff, parents and pupils.

Reporting to the governing board on the implementation of this policy, including its effectiveness in addressing any SEMH-related issues that could be driving disruptive behaviour.

**The senior mental health lead is responsible for:**

- Overseeing the whole-school approach to mental health, including how this is reflected in this policy, how staff are supported with managing pupils with SEMH-related behavioural difficulties, and how the school engages pupils and parents with regards to the behaviour of pupils with SEMH difficulties.
- Supporting behaviour management in line with the SEMH Policy.

The SENCO will be responsible for:

- Collaborating with the governing board, headteacher and the senior mental health lead, and SLT, to determine the strategic development of behaviour and SEMH policies and provisions in the school.
- Undertaking day-to-day responsibilities for the successful operation of the behaviour and SEMH policies to support pupils with SEND, in line with the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.
- Supporting teachers in the further assessment of a pupil's strengths and areas for improvement and advising on the effective implementation of support.

Teaching staff will be responsible for:

- Planning and reviewing support for pupils with behavioural difficulties in collaboration with parents, the SENCO and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves.
- Aiming to teach all pupils the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment.
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving their full potential, and that every pupil with behavioural difficulties will be able to study the full curriculum.
- Teaching and modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships, demonstrating good habits.
- Being responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class.
- Not tolerating disruption and taking proportionate action to restore acceptable standards of behaviour.
- Developing effective communications with parents, ensuring that they feel included in their child's educational experiences.

All members of staff, including teaching and support staff, and volunteers will be responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and applying it consistently and fairly.
- Supporting pupils in adhering to this policy.
- Promoting a supportive and high-quality learning environment.
- Modelling high levels of behaviour.
- Being aware of the signs of behavioural difficulties.
- Setting high expectations for every pupil.
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, and support provided to any pupils with specific behavioural needs.
- Keeping the relevant figures of authority up-to-date with any changes in behaviour.
- As authorised by the headteacher, sanctioning pupils who display poor levels of behaviour.
- Developing supportive, respectful, and trustworthy relationships with each other.

## **Pupils are responsible for:**

- Their own behaviour both inside school and out in the wider community.
- Reporting any unacceptable behaviour to a member of staff.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting their child in adhering to the school rules and reinforcing this at home.
- Informing the school of any changes in circumstances which may affect their child's behaviour.

## **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the school will define "serious unacceptable behaviour" as any behaviour which may cause harm to oneself or others, damage the reputation of the school within the wider community, and/or any illegal behaviour. This will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Discrimination** – not giving equal respect to an individual on the basis of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation
- **Harassment** – behaviour towards others which is unwanted, offensive and affects the dignity of the individual or group of individuals
- **Vexatious behaviour** – deliberately acting in a manner so as to cause annoyance or irritation
- **Bullying** – a type of harassment which involves personal abuse or persistent actions which humiliate, intimidate, frighten or demean the individual being bullied
- **Cyberbullying** – the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature
- Possession of legal or illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- Possession of banned items
- Truancy and running away from school
- Refusing to comply with disciplinary sanctions
- Theft
- Verbal abuse, including swearing, racist remarks and threatening language
- Fighting and aggression
- Persistent disobedience or disruptive behaviour
- Extreme behaviour, such as violence and serious vandalism
- Any behaviour that threatens safety or presents a serious danger
- Any behaviour that seriously inhibits the learning of pupils
- Any behaviour that requires the immediate attention of a staff member

For the purposes of this policy, the school will define "low-level unacceptable behaviour" as any behaviour which may disrupt the education of the perpetrator and/or other pupils, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Lateness
- Low-level disruption and talking in class
- Failure to complete classwork
- Rudeness
- Use of mobile phones without permission
- Graffiti

**"Low-level unacceptable behaviour" may be escalated to "serious unacceptable behaviour", depending on the severity of the behaviour.**

## **Staff induction, development and support**

All new staff will be inducted clearly into the school's behaviour culture to ensure they understand its rules and routines and how best to support all pupils to participate in creating the culture of the school. Staff will be provided with bespoke training, where necessary, on the needs of pupils at the school to enable behaviour to be managed consistently.

The SLT will consider any appropriate training which is required for staff to meet their duties and functions in accordance with this policy, including on understanding matters which may affect a pupil's behaviour, e.g. SEND and mental health needs.

Members of staff who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading behaviour or supporting pupil wellbeing will be supported to undertake any relevant training or qualifications.

The SLT and the headteacher will review staff training needs annually, and in response to any serious or persistent behaviour issues disrupting the running of the school.

Staff will know where and how to ask for assistance if they're struggling to build and maintain an effective culture of positive behaviour.

Staff voice will be considered when the school develops and refines its behaviour policies and procedures.

## **Managing behaviour**

We promote a caring, supportive environment in which staff educate children in how to de-escalate and regulate their behaviour.

All staff will be alert to changes in a pupil's behaviour that could indicate they need help or protection.

Support, such as targeted discussions with pupils, a phone call with parents, and inquiries into circumstances outside of school, will be provided alongside the use of strategies to prevent the misbehaviour recurring. After initial incidents of negative behaviour, the following strategies will be used, with staff using their professional judgement and experience to determine what is appropriate and reasonable:

- Positive reinforcements and recognising good behaviours
  - Non-verbal signal
  - Verbal reminder of Class Charter and expectations
  - Reflection time within the classroom setting
  - Where work is incomplete as a result of unacceptable behaviour, pupils may be required to do this during part of their lunchtime
  - Reflection time in another classroom setting
  - Completion of S.T.A.R. form
  - Referral to SLT/SENCO for more serious incidents
  - Meeting with parents
- 
- Where a pupil is identified as having SEMH-related difficulties, support will be put in place.

Following repeated incidents of unacceptable behaviour, the following strategies will be implemented:

- Where SEND is not identified, but the headteacher determines that support is still required for the pupil, an Individual Behaviour Plan will be created to outline the necessary provisions in place.
- Referral to Headteacher; internal exclusion, removal of privileges
- Temporary or fixed permanent suspensions for more extreme cases

## **Prevention strategies, intervention, and sanctions for unacceptable behaviour**

### **Initial interventions**

Zones of regulation is a whole school approach to support pupils in managing their behaviour. Support will consider the pupil's specific needs and may be delivered outside of the classroom, in small groups or in one-to-one activities.

Examples of initial interventions to address misbehaviour will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Regular engagement with parents
- Children spending time in a different classroom/year group/ appropriate area of the school
- Behaviour plans
- Engagement with local partners and agencies
- Where the pupil has SEND, an assessment of whether appropriate provision is in place to support the pupil, and if the pupil has an EHC plan, contact with the LA to consider a review of the plan

A multi-agency assessment, such as an early help assessment, that goes beyond a pupil's education will be considered where serious concerns about a pupil's behaviour exist.

### **Behaviour curriculum**

As part of our Zones of Regulation all pupils will be taught to de-escalate and regulate their behaviour.

Routine will be used to teach and reinforce the expected behaviours of all pupils. Appropriate and reasonable adjustments to routines for pupils with additional needs, e.g. SEND, will be made. Consistent and clear language will be used when acknowledging positive behaviour and addressing misbehaviour.

#### **Positive teacher-pupil relationships**

Positive teacher-pupil relationships are key to minimising unacceptable behaviour. The school will focus heavily on forming positive relationships based on predictability, fairness and trust to allow teachers to understand their pupils and create a strong foundation from which behavioural change can take place.

#### **Preventative measures for pupils with SEND**

Behaviour will always be considered in relation to a pupil's SEND. If it is deemed that a pupil's SEND has contributed to their misbehaviour, the school will consider whether it is appropriate and lawful to sanction the pupil.

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, the graduate approach will be used to assess, plan, deliver and review the impact of support being provided.

The school will aim to anticipate likely triggers of misbehaviour and put in place support to prevent these, taking into account the specific circumstances and requirements of the pupil concerned. Measures the school will implement where appropriate include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Short, planned movement breaks for a pupil whose SEND means they find it difficult to sit still for long
- Ensuring a pupil with visual or hearing impairment is seated in sight of the teacher
- Adjusting uniform requirements for a pupil with sensory issues or relevant medical condition
- Training for staff in understanding autism and other conditions

#### De-escalation strategies

Where negative behaviour is present, staff members will implement de-escalation strategies to diffuse the situation. This will include:

- Appearing calm and using a modulated, low tone of voice
- Using simple, direct language.
- Avoiding being defensive, e.g. if comments or insults are directed at the staff member.
- Providing adequate personal space.
- Showing open, accepting body language, e.g. not standing with their arms crossed.
- Reassuring the pupil and creating an outcome goal.
- Identifying any points of agreement to build a rapport.
- Offering the pupil a face-saving route out of confrontation, e.g. that if they stop the behaviour, then the consequences will be lessened.
- Rephrasing requests made up of negative words with positive phrases, e.g. “if you don’t return to your seat, I won’t help you with your work” becomes “if you return to your seat, I can help you with your work”.

### **Physical intervention**

In line with the school Positive Handling Policy, trained members of staff will have the legal right to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from injuring themselves or others, or damaging school property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.

Physical restraint will only be used as a last resort and as a method of restraint. Staff members will use their professional judgement of the incident to decide whether physical intervention is necessary. The situations in which physical restraint may be appropriate are detailed in the Physical Intervention Policy. Wherever possible, staff will ensure that a second member of staff is present to witness the physical intervention used.

After an instance of physical intervention, the headteacher must be informed as soon as possible. The pupil’s parents must be contacted. Where appropriate, the headteacher may decide to temporarily remove the pupil from the school via a suspension, in line with the DfE’s guidance on ‘Suspension and Permanent Exclusion’. Where suspension is carried out, the pupil’s parents will be asked to collect the pupil and take them home for the rest of the day.

Any violent or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated by the school and may result in a fixed-term suspension in the first instance. It is at the discretion of the headteacher as to what behaviour constitutes for suspension.

The headteacher will establish a clear process for the reintegration of a pupil who has been suspended. Consideration will be given to what support is needed to help the pupil return and meet the expected standards of behaviour. Reintegration meetings will be held between the school, pupil and their parents, and other agencies if relevant, where necessary.

When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving pupils with SEND or medical conditions, staff will recognise and consider the vulnerability of these groups.

### **Removal from the classroom**

The school may decide to remove pupils from the classroom for a limited period, at the instruction of a member of staff. A pupil will only be removed from the classroom where absolutely necessary and for the following reasons:

- To maintain the safety of all pupils and restore stability following an unreasonably high level of disruption
- To enable disruptive pupils to be taken to a place where education can continue in a managed environment
- To allow the pupil to regain calm in a safe space

The school will ensure that pupils' health and safety is not compromised during their time away from the classroom, and that any additional requirements, such as SEND needs, are met.

The amount of time that a pupil spends removed from the classroom will be up to the school to decide. This could be for more than one school day. The school will ensure that the pupil is not removed from the classroom any longer than necessary.

The staff member in charge and supervising the pupil will decide what the pupil may and may not do during their time spent out of the classroom. The headteacher will request that the pupil's class teachers set them appropriate work to complete.

### **Sexual abuse and harassment**

The school prohibits all forms of sexual abuse and harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based bullying and sexual violence. The school's procedures for handling child-on-child sexual abuse and harassment are detailed in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will respond promptly and appropriately to any sexual harassment complaints in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; appropriate steps will be taken to stop the harassment and prevent any reoccurrence. Discipline for incidents of sexual harassment will be determined based on the nature of the case, the ages of those involved and any previous related incidents.

### **Smoking and controlled substances**

In accordance with the Health Act 2006, the school is a smoke-free environment. Parents, visitors, staff and pupils will be instructed not to smoke on school grounds. Pupils will not be permitted to bring smoking materials or nicotine products to school. The school will have a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs, legal highs and other controlled substances.

### **Prohibited items, searching pupils and confiscation**

Headteachers and staff authorised by them will have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that

the pupil may have a prohibited item. The prohibited items where reasonable force may be used are:

- Knives and weapons.
- Alcohol.
- Illegal drugs.
- Stolen items.
- Tobacco and cigarette papers.
- Fireworks.
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used:
  - To commit an offence; or
  - To cause personal injury to any person, including the pupil themselves; or
  - To damage the property of any person, including the pupil themselves.

### **Mobile Phones**

Pupils will not be permitted to use their mobile phones during the course of the school day. Mobile phones will be handed in on arrival – pupils will be permitted to access their mobile phones before and after school but will be required to hand their phone in at the beginning of the school day to be collected at the end of the school day.

### **Effective classroom management**

Well-managed classrooms are paramount to preventing disruptive and unacceptable behaviour. Effective classroom management will allow staff to:

- Start the year with clear sets of rules and routines that are understood by all pupils.
- Establish agreed rewards and positive reinforcements.
- Establish sanctions for misbehaviour.
- Establish clear responses for handling behavioural problems.
- Encourage respect and development of positive relationships.
- Make effective use of the physical space available.
- Have well-planned lessons with a range of activities to keep pupils stimulated.

Subject to reasonable adjustments, e.g. those made for pupils whose SEND may affect their behaviour, pupils will be expected to follow the school Pupil Code of Conduct, which requires pupils to:

- Conduct themselves around the school premises in a safe, sensible and respectful manner.
- Follow reasonable instructions given by staff.
- Behave in a reasonable and polite manner towards all staff and pupils.
- Show respect for the opinions and beliefs of others.
- Complete classwork as requested.
- Hand in homework at the time requested.
- Report unacceptable behaviour.
- Show respect for the school environment.

### **Classroom rules and routines**

At St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, we have an established set of clear, comprehensive and enforceable classroom rules which define what is acceptable behaviour and what the consequences are if rules are not adhered to. Attention is given to how rules are worded, such as the use of positive language rather than negative, e.g. “act respectfully towards your peers and teachers”, rather than “do not act disrespectfully towards your peers and teachers”. We also have our School Mission Statement.

The school will also have an established set of classroom routines to help pupils work well, in the understanding that behavioural problems can arise due to the lack of a consistent routine. This includes teachers ensuring that before lessons begin, they have the full attention of all pupils, then explaining the task clearly so all pupils understand what they are supposed to be doing.

The headteacher will ensure all teachers understand classroom rules and routines and how to enforce them, including any sanctions for not following the rules.

Teachers will support pupils to understand and follow classroom rules and routines. Teachers will inform pupils of classroom rules and routines at the beginning of the academic year and revisit these daily. Where appropriate, teachers will explain the rationale behind the rules and routines to help pupils understand why they are needed, and will model rules and routines to ensure pupils understand them. Teachers will also explain clearly to pupils what will happen if they breach any classroom rules to ensure pupils are aware of the sanctions that may be imposed.

To support pupils' continued awareness and understanding of classroom rules and routines, teachers will reinforce them in a range of ways, e.g. class charter, placing posters of the rules on classroom walls and providing regular verbal reminders of the routines. Teachers will also ensure that classroom rules and routines remain consistent and are practised throughout the year to create a more productive and enjoyable environment.

At the beginning of the school year, once the class charter has been devised, pupils will be provided with a class charter agreement which they are required to read and sign. All rules outlined in the classroom rules agreement are applicable to pupils' behaviour elsewhere on the school premises and outside of the school – teachers will ensure that pupils understand this.

### **The classroom environment**

At St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, we understand that a well-structured classroom environment is paramount to preventing poor behaviour. This includes the teacher positioning themselves effectively within the classroom, e.g. wherever possible, teachers avoid standing with their backs to pupils and ensure they have full view of the room at all times.

Teachers will employ strategic seating arrangements to prevent poor behaviour and enable it to be noticed early, such as:

- Seating those who frequently model poor behaviour closest to, and facing, the teacher.
- Seating those who frequently model poor behaviour away from each other.
- Ensuring the teacher can see pupils' faces, that pupils can see one another, and that they can see the board.
- Ensuring the teacher can move around the room so that behaviour can be monitored effectively.

### **Praise and rewards**

The school will recognise that praise is key to making pupils feel valued and ensuring that their work and efforts are celebrated. When giving praise, teachers will ensure:

- They define the behaviour that is being rewarded.
- The praise is given immediately following the desired behaviour.
- The way in which the praise is given is varied.
- Praise is related to effort, rather than only to work produced.

- Perseverance and independence are encouraged.
- Praise is only given when a pupil's efforts, work or behaviour need to be recognised, rather than continuously without reason.
- The praise given is always sincere and is not followed with immediate criticism.

Whilst it is important to receive praise from teachers, the school understands that peer praise is also effective for creating a positive, fun and supportive environment. Teachers will encourage pupils to praise one another, and praise another pupil to the teacher, if they see them modelling good behaviour.

As with praise, the school understands that providing rewards after certain behaviour means that pupils are more likely to model the same behaviour again. For rewards to be effective, the school recognises that they need to be:

- Immediate – immediately rewarded following good behaviour.
- Consistent – consistently rewarded to maintain the behaviour.
- Achievable – keeping rewards achievable to maintain attention and motivation.
- Fair – making sure all pupils are fairly rewarded.

**Rewards for good behaviour will include, but are not limited to:**

- Verbal praise.
- Communicating praise to parents via postcard or verbally.
- Housepoints.
- Stickers.
- Certificates linked to school values (Spiritual, Respectful, Inclusive, Curious, Responsible, Resilient).
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies.
- Positions of responsibility, e.g. being entrusted with a particular project.
- Trips and activities for a whole-class or year group.

**Classroom Sanctions**

- Positive reinforcement/ praise good behaviours
- Non-verbal signal
- Verbal reminder - expectations, class charter
- Reflection time in own class within a suitable space in the classroom e.g. the reading corner. The aim is for children to return from yellow zone to green. Time limits are as follows:
  - EYFS: 3 minutes, KS1: 4 minutes KS2: 5 minutes. “Your actions are showing me that you are in the yellow zone. I would like you to sit and reflect so that you can return to the green zone.”
  - Parents should be informed that the child has needed reflection time in class.
- Reflection time in Head of Year class - return to learning in own class.
- Referral to SLT/SENCO: If there is a serious incident then a member of SLT/SENCO must be made aware and support if necessary.
- Meeting with parents and relevant staff.
- Referral to Headteacher: Internal exclusions, temporary or fixed permanent exclusion for extreme cases.

**Playground Environment**

High standards in behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life, including on the playground at break and lunchtimes.

### **Prevention Strategies**

All staff on duty have a key role in being proactive in their approach to positive behaviour.

- Ensuring a well structured environment - routines, consistent expectations (walking to and from the hall, line, stopping at bell, lining up, prompt collection etc), calm and careful supervision.
- Variety of games and equipment (lunch) to promote positive activity and engage the children. Adults interacting with children and modelling.
- Use of positive language - praise good behaviours

### **Intervention**

Playground incidents must be dealt with by staff on duty as soon as they occur.

#### **De-escalation strategies:**

- Remain calm - low tone of voice
- Spend a few minutes talking to the child to see what the issue is
- Use simple, direct language - verbal reminder
- Allow the child personal space and dignity
- Avoid labelling and taking things personally
- Find another appealing activity/different group of children

#### **Sanctions**

- Cooling off time - child might need to stay next to you (low level). How can you support this child to return to the green zone? (walk round, distraction task)
- Reflection time (short 3-5 mins) "Your actions are showing me that you are in the yellow zone. I would like you to reflect so that you can return to the green zone."
- Some incidents will need to be reported to the class teacher when they collect their class, who will speak to parents at the end of the day.
- Referral to SLT/SENCO: On the rare occasion there is a serious incident then a member of SLT/SENCO must be made aware and support if necessary.

### **Effective pupil support**

The school recognises that the core purpose of providing alternative provision for pupils who struggle to meet expected standards of behaviour is to successfully integrate them back into the regular classroom environment. Alternative provision may also be required for pupils with additional needs.

Designated inclusion staff will have clearly defined responsibilities, enabling pupils to receive the most effective support. These staff will also have an accurate view of the needs of identified pupils.

Designated staff will engage with external partners and specialist agencies to access further appropriate support when required.

## **Behaviour outside of school premises**

Pupils at the school must agree to represent the school in a positive manner. The guidance laid out in the Pupil Code of Conduct will apply both inside school and out in the wider community, particularly if the pupil is dressed in school uniform.

Staff can discipline pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises, including conduct online, when the pupil is:

- Wearing school uniform.
- Travelling to or from school.
- Taking part in any school-related activity.
- In any way identifiable as being a pupil at the school.

Staff may also discipline pupils for misbehaviour outside the school premises, including conduct online, that:

- Could negatively affect the reputation of the school.
- Could pose a threat to another pupil, a member of staff at the school, or a member of the public.
- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school.

Complaints from members of the public about the behaviour of pupils from the school are taken very seriously.

## **Grounds for suspension or exclusion**

The school will only suspend or exclude a pupil where it is absolutely necessary, and where all other possible disciplinary sanctions, as detailed in the school's Behaviour Policy, have failed to be successful.

The following examples of behaviour may warrant the decision to suspend or exclude a pupil:

- Physical assault against a pupil
- Physical assault against an adult
- Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil
- Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult
- Use, or threat of use, of an offensive weapon or prohibited item
- Bullying
- Discriminatory abuse, e.g. racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic or ableist abuse

Pupils can be suspended on a fixed-period basis, i.e. for up to 45 school days within a year, or permanently excluded. Similarly, pupils can be permanently excluded following a suspension, where further evidence is presented. In all cases, the headteacher will decide whether a pupil will be subject to a suspension or an exclusion, depending on what the circumstances warrant.

## **The headteacher's power to suspend and exclude**

Only the headteacher has the power to suspend or exclude a pupil from the school, and is able to decide whether either a suspension or exclusion is appropriate. All suspensions and exclusions will only be issued on disciplinary grounds.

The headteacher is able to suspend pupils where their behaviour is disruptive during lunchtime. All lunchtime suspensions will be counted as half of a school day. The

headteacher is also able to consider a pupil's disruptive behaviour outside of the school premises as grounds for suspension or exclusion.

When sending a pupil home following any suspension or exclusion, the headteacher will ensure that they exercise their duty of care at all times and will always inform the parents.

Any decision made to suspend or exclude a pupil will be lawful, proportionate and fair, with respect to legislation relating directly to suspensions and exclusions and the school's wider legal duties, including the ECHR. At all times, the headteacher will take into account their legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years', ensuring that they do not discriminate on any grounds and will not increase the severity of a pupil's suspension or exclusion on these grounds.

The headteacher may cancel any suspension or exclusion that has already begun, or one that has not yet begun; however, this power will only be used if the suspension or exclusion has not already been reviewed by the governing board.

The headteacher's duties in relation to notification and the duty to allow a pupil back into school are statutory. Where a suspension or exclusion is cancelled, the headteacher will notify the pupil's parents, the governing board, the LA, and, where relevant, the virtual school head (VSH) and the pupil's social worker. The notification will also provide the reason for the cancellation. The headteacher will offer the pupil's parents the opportunity to meet with the headteacher to discuss the circumstances that led to the cancellation of the exclusion, and the pupil will be allowed back into school without delay.

When a suspension or exclusion is cancelled, the governing board's duty to consider reinstatement ceases, and there is no requirement to hold a meeting to consider reinstatement.

Any days spent out of school as a result of a suspension or exclusion prior to it being cancelled will count towards the maximum 45 school days that a pupil can be suspended or excluded in an academic year. A permanent exclusion will not be cancelled if the pupil has already been suspended or excluded for more than 45 school days in an academic year or if they will have been so by the time the cancellation takes effect.

The headteacher will report the number of suspensions and exclusions that have been cancelled, alongside the circumstances around and reasons for cancellation, to the governing board once per term, to allow the governing board to have appropriate oversight.

The headteacher will not issue any 'informal' or 'unofficial' suspensions or exclusions, e.g. sending a pupil home to 'cool off', regardless of whether the parents have agreed to this. The headteacher will not use the threat of suspension or exclusion as a means of instructing parents to remove their child from the premises.

All suspensions and exclusions will be formally recorded on the school's pupil information system.

### **Factors to consider when suspending or excluding a pupil**

When considering the suspension or exclusion of a pupil, the headteacher will:

- Take into account any contributing factors that are identified after a case of poor behaviour has occurred, e.g. if the pupil's wellbeing has been compromised, or they have been subjected to bullying.

- Take into consideration whether the pupil has received multiple suspensions or is approaching the legal limit of 45 suspended days per school year, and whether suspension is serving as an effective sanction.

- Consider early intervention to address underlying causes of disruptive behaviour, including liaising with external agencies, to assess pupils who demonstrate consistently poor behaviour.

The headteacher will consider what extra support may be available for vulnerable pupil groups whose suspension and exclusion rates are higher, to reduce their risk of suspension or exclusion, including the following:

- LAC
- Pupils eligible for FSM
- Pupils with SEND

Where SEND or SEMH issues are identified, an individual behaviour plan will be created. If the pupil continues to endanger the physical or emotional wellbeing of other pupils or staff, then suspension or exclusion may be considered. The headteacher will work in conjunction with the parents of any pupil with additional needs to establish the most effective support mechanisms.

### **Preventative measures**

Before taking a final decision to exclude, the headteacher will consider whether it is in the best interests of all parties to initiate off-site directions or managed moves as preventative measures to exclusion.

### **Managed moves**

Where it is thought to be in a pupil's best interest to transfer them to another mainstream school permanently, the headteacher and governing board will discuss this with the parents of the pupil, and the LA if the pupil has an EHC plan – managed moves will only go ahead with the voluntary agreement of all parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the new school.

The school will ensure that detailed records are kept of any decision to initiate a managed move, including evidence that appropriate initial intervention has been carried out. The school will participate in information sharing with the pupil's new school, including sending data on prior and current attainment, academic potential and any risk management strategies. The school will also cooperate with the pupil's new school to create an effective integration strategy.

Parents who have concerns that a managed move is being forced on them or who are unhappy with a managed move will be referred to the Complaints Policy and Procedure.

### **Informing parents**

Following the headteacher's decision to suspend or exclude a pupil, they will immediately inform the parents by telephone, supported by email communication, of the period of the suspension, or permanency of the exclusion, and the reasons behind this.

The headteacher will inform the parents in writing of the following:

- The reasons for the suspension or exclusion
- The length of the suspension or permanency of the exclusion
- Their right to raise any representations about the suspension or exclusion to the governing board, including how the pupil will be involved in this and how the representations will be made

- Their right to make a request to hold the meeting via remote access and how this request can be made
- Their right to attend a meeting where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to consider the suspension or exclusion, and the fact that they are able to bring an accompanying individual
- The arrangements that have been made for the pupil to continue their education prior to the organisation of any alternative provision, or the pupil's return to school
- Relevant sources of free, impartial information

The headteacher will inform the parents by the end of the afternoon session that for the first five days of the suspension or exclusion parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without justification, and that parents may receive a penalty fine if they fail to do so.

Where the headteacher has arranged alternative provision, they will also inform the parents of the following:

- The start and end date for any provision of full-time education
- The address at which the provision will take place
- Any information necessary for the pupil to identify the person they should report to on the starting date

Where the headteacher is unable to provide information on alternative provision by the end of the afternoon session, they will provide the information in a subsequent written notice without further delay, and within 48 hours of the pupil beginning the provision.

If the headteacher has decided to suspend the pupil for a further fixed period following their original suspension, or to permanently exclude them, they will notify the parents without delay and issue a new suspension or exclusion notice to parents.

### **Informing the governing board and LA**

The headteacher will inform the governing board, without delay, of the following:

- Any permanent exclusions (including where a suspension is followed by a decision to permanently exclude the pupil)
- Any suspensions which would result in the pupil being suspended for more than 5 school days in a term (or more than 10 lunchtimes)
- Any suspensions or exclusions which would result in the pupil being absent from an examination or national curriculum test

For any suspensions and exclusions, other than those above, the headteacher will notify the governing board once per term.

The headteacher will inform the LA of all suspensions or exclusions, regardless of their length, without delay.

All notifications to the governing board and LA will include the reasons for suspension or exclusion and the duration of any suspension.

If a pupil who is suspended or excluded lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the headteacher will notify the pupil's 'home authority'.

## **Arranging education for suspended and excluded pupils**

For any suspensions of more than five school days, the governing board will arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil, which will begin no later than the sixth day of suspension. Where a pupil receives consecutive suspensions, these will be regarded as cumulative, and full-time education will still have to be provided from the sixth day of suspension. For exclusions, full-time education will be provided for the pupil from the sixth day of exclusion.

The governing board is aware that it is beneficial to suspended and excluded pupils to begin their alternative education arrangements before the sixth day of suspension or exclusion; therefore, the governing board will always attempt to arrange alternative provision before the sixth day. Where it is not possible to arrange alternative provision during the first five days, the school will ensure that they take reasonable steps to set and mark work for the pupil.

If a pupil with SEND has been suspended or excluded, the governing board will ensure that:

- Any alternative provision is arranged in consultation with the pupil's parents, who are able to request preferences.
- When identifying alternative provision, any EHC plan is reviewed or the pupil's needs are reassessed, in consultation with the pupil's parents.

## **Considering suspensions and exclusions**

The governing board will consider any representations made by parents regarding suspensions and exclusions.

Parents and, where requested, a friend or representative, the headteacher, and a member of the LA will be invited to attend any consideration of suspensions and exclusions and will be able to make representations.

Any meeting to consider reinstatement of a pupil will be arranged at a date and time convenient for all parties, and in compliance with any statutory time limits.

The governing board will consider the reinstatement of a suspended or excluded pupil, where:

- The exclusion is permanent.
- The suspension is fixed-period, and would bring the pupil's total number of suspended school days to more than 15 in any given term.
- The suspension or exclusion would result in the pupil missing a public examination.

## **Notification of considered suspensions and exclusions**

The governing board will notify the parents of the suspended or excluded pupil, the headteacher, and the LA of their decision following the consideration of a suspension or exclusion, in writing and without delay.

In the case of exclusion, where the governing board decides not to reinstate the pupil, they will notify the parents:

- That the exclusion is permanent.
- Of their right for it to be reviewed by an independent review panel.
- Of the date by which an application for review must be made.
- Of the name and address of whom the review application should be submitted to.

- That a request to hold the meeting via remote access can be made and how to do this.
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, this should include reference to how a pupil's SEND is considered relevant to the exclusion.
- That, regardless of whether a pupil has been identified as having SEND, the parents have a right to require the governing board to ensure a SEND expert attends the review.
- Of the role of the SEND expert that will attend the review, and that the parents will not be charged for this.
- That they are required to make it clear if they wish for a SEND expert to attend the review.
- That they may appoint someone at their own expense to make representations to the panel.

### **Data collection and behaviour evaluation**

The school will collect data from the following sources:

- Behaviour incident data, including on removal from the classroom
- Attendance, internal exclusion and suspension data
- Use of pupil support units, off-site directions and managed moves
- Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation
- Anonymous surveys for staff, pupils, governors, and other stakeholders on their perceptions and experiences of the school behaviour culture

The data will be monitored and objectively analysed termly by the headteacher and the SLT. Attempts will be made to identify possible factors contributing to the behaviour, any system problems or inadequacies with existing support. The data will also be analysed considering the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 to inform school policies and practice.

Staff will help to paint a whole-school picture of an effective behaviour culture by being held accountable for their part in maintaining the school's behaviour systems and processes.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and senior mental health lead on an annual basis; they will make any necessary changes and communicate these to all members of staff and relevant stakeholders.

This policy will be made available for Ofsted inspections and reviews by the lead inspector, upon request

