Behaviour Principles Written Statement 2026-2027

St White's Primary School

The Governing Body of St White's Primary School is charged with the duty to set the framework of the school's behaviour policy by providing a written statement of general principles relating to behaviour and discipline, taking into account the needs of all staff and pupils. Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires maintained school governing bodies to make a written statement of general principles to which the headteacher is to have regard in determining the behaviour policy. Paragraph 183, section 6.8.3 on page 92 of the Department for Education's (DfE's) Governance Handbook says the task of writing a statement of behaviour principles cannot be delegated. It says a governing body '*must consult the executive leader, other appropriate members of staff, parents and all registered pupils before making or changing this statement of principles.*'

The purpose of this statement therefore, is to give guidance to the Headteacher in drawing up the behaviour policy by stating the principles which the Governors expect to be followed. The policy aims to underpin the Governors' duty of care to pupils and employees; promote teaching and learning and high standards of attainment and preserve the reputation of the school. The statement is available upon request from the school and can also be found on the school's web site.

Our school's behaviour principles have our vision and values as their foundation. At St White's we are 'Always Learning'. We greet challenge with a 'can do' attitude; take responsibility and commit; communicate clearly as we conquer; reflect and celebrate. This is at the heart of all that we do.

In order to be 'Always Learning', and to promote the fundamental British Values of Democracy; The Rule of Law; Individual Liberty; Mutual Respect and Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, the school adheres to these principles:

Our Principles are:

- To recognise that each individual, pupil or member of staff, is unique and deserves to be valued equally.

- That all will actively promote equality irrespective of race, gender, age, sexuality, religion or disability.
- To provide a positive and supportive environment in which staff and pupils can maximise their skills and to support them in fulfilling their potential for the benefit of themselves and the wider community.
- To provide full opportunity for our staff and pupils to develop their individual talents and build a strong foundation for their future.
- To develop effective leadership throughout all levels of the school and to use this to create a successful teaching environment where the high expectations of pupils, staff, governors and parents are met.
- That at St White's, everyone will feel safe and secure.
- To eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment or bullying.
- That positive, strong relationships exist throughout the school, which lead to the mutual respect between all members of our community that encourages good behaviour.
- To enable leaders to lead, teachers to teach and pupils to learn.
- To ensure that parents are fully informed of their child's progress and any issues and are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to ensure their child, and their peers, can have a rewarding school experience.

Expectations

- All members of the school community, at all times, behave in a polite and considerate manner showing respect for themselves, each other and to the school itself. It is expected that every member of staff fully understands their roles and responsibilities in maintaining absolute confidentiality in respect of all school matters and GDPR.
- Pupils behave in a manner which supports their own learning, and that of other pupils, and does not jeopardise the health and safety of any member of the school community.
- Pupils and staff will not use offensive language, will adhere to the anti-bullying policy and will at all times promote tolerance and respect with regards to all protected characteristics including disability, age, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and race.

- That the school's behaviour policy will be applied with consistency and fairness, with regard to each individual situation.
- That the emphasis will be on encouraging positive behaviour through high expectations; the modelling of good behaviour; a focus on learning; and praise and rewards.
- That consequences, when necessary, will enable the pupil to reflect on, and learn from, their behaviour and to make reparation wherever possible.
- That each pupil receives behavioural support according to their need.
- That parents will be fully informed of any incidents and will work with the school to support the implementation of the behaviour policy.
- That the focus on positive behaviour, emotionally literate discussion, forgiveness and reconciliation will significantly reduce the need for exclusion. However, when making decisions the Headteacher must balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community and where pupil behaviour places others at risk, the safety of the pupil body as a whole is paramount.
- When considering this, the Governing Body supports the right of the Headteacher to exclude pupils either temporarily or permanently, if necessary, where it is considered that allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of that pupil or others in the school. Governors will follow the guidelines set out by the Local Authority, if such circumstances arise that warrant the headteacher applying for a permanent exclusion.
- That given, the overriding need to keep the pupils and staff safe, the Headteacher, or representative(s), have the power to use reasonable force or make other physical contact and while acting in a way that is designed to keep individuals from harming, or further harming, themselves or others.
- The school knows when a multi-agency assessment should be considered for pupils who display continuous disruptive behaviour
- That if circumstances arise, the school has the right to screen and/or search pupils and will include identifying in the school rules items that are banned and that may be searched for
- That given our duty of care to the pupils, this written statement and the policies that are influenced by it, apply to all pupils when in school, when travelling to and from school, when engaged in extra-curricular activities such as educational trips

and visits (residential and non-residential), or when otherwise they can be considered to be acting in such a way as to bring the school into disrepute.

- The school provides pastoral care for school staff accused of misconduct.

References

- Equality Act October 2010
- Behaviour and discipline in schools: Advice for Headteachers and school staff. DfE January 2016
- Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England: A guide for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion, Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Alternative Provision Schools. DfE September 2017
- Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for Headteachers, school staff and governing bodies. DfE January 2018
- Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools April 2026
- school policies, including:
    - SEN
    - Positive Behaviour and Relationships
    - Anti-bullying and Hate Crime
    - Code of Conduct and Whistle Blowing
    - Safeguarding and Child Protection
    - Privacy Notice and GDPR
    - Use of restrictive interventions policy