



St Catherine Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Behaviour principles statement

Signed:

Date:

Date Ratified by Governors: April 2023

Date for Review: April 2026

Rationale and purpose:

This document is not policy or practice, rather it is a statement to set out St Catherine Catholic School's broad principles and values with regard to behaviour that is both expected and promoted within the school.

Actual, practical applications of these principles are the responsibility of the headteacher, who will view each case in light of these principles and any relevant policies.

The governing body is aware and approves of this statement, believing it accurately reflects the school's ethos and that effective learning and development relies on good standards of behaviour.

This is why, at St Catherine's, we seek to uphold high standards of behaviour that are guided by the principles within this statement.

Principles

The Governing Body of St. Catherine School strongly believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enables (a) all its 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.

All pupils and staff have the right to feel safe at all times whilst in the 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.

St. Catherine School is an inclusive school. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010). To this end the school must ensure there is 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 or background should be clearly set out and regularly monitored for their effective implementation.

The schools legal duties under the Equality Act, 2010 in respect of safeguarding, pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities and all vulnerable pupils should be set out in the Behaviour Policy and made known to all staff. Parents/carers should be encouraged and helped to support their children's education, just as the pupils should be helped to understand their responsibilities during their time within a school, in the local community and in preparation for their life after leaving the school. The responsibilities of pupils, parents/carers and school staff with respect to pupils' behaviour must be outlined in the 'Home/School Agreement' which pupils and parents/carers must be asked to sign when a pupil joins the school.

The School rules should be clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. These 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 pupils. The Governors expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff and regularly monitored for their effectiveness.

The Governors would like to see a wide range of rewards consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere. These should be made clear in the Behaviour Policy and regularly monitored for their consistent, fair application and effectiveness.

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 so must be avoided. The Headteacher may inform the police, as appropriate, if there is evidence of a criminal act or if they 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.

The Behaviour Policy should set out the disciplinary action that will be taken against pupils who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff. The Governors expect the Headteacher 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.

The Governors expect the Headteacher to include the following in some detail in the Behaviour Policy:

- 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 familiar with relevant policies.
- 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. If required, Governors would expect all staff to be trained in the use of reasonable force and restraint.

General expectations

- All members of the school community should be aware of behavioural expectations and the relevant policies, and agree to them as fair and reasonable. These will be made readily available to read and general expectations will be displayed in classrooms and around the school.
- Polite and considerate behaviour is to be maintained by all around the school, both in and out of the classroom.
- Offensive or insulting language is not to be used in any circumstances, deliberately or otherwise.
- Each pupil receives the necessary behavioural support according to their specific needs.
- Bullying (and cyber bullying) is not tolerated and pupils should report any case of bullying they experience or observe to school staff.
- Pupils should help staff by showing good behaviour in the classroom, not distracting themselves or others from important learning.
- Staff will lead by example and model their conduct in line with the school's standards.
- To keep the pupils and staff safe, the headteacher will utilise their powers to search or use reasonable force in order to keep individuals from harming, or further harming, themselves or others.
- Everyone in St Catherine School community should understand that the school's emphasis is on encouraging and praising good behaviour and supporting individuals who are struggling to meet the expected behavioural standards.

This written statement, and the policies that are influenced by it, applies to all pupils and staff inside and outside of school, when acting as ambassadors, when engaged in extra-curricular activities, such as educational trips and visits (residential and non-residential) and when being educated as a member of St Catherine Catholic School.

Review

This Statement of Principles will be reviewed every 3 years, or as necessary. The school Behaviour Management Policy will be reviewed and shared with the Governors annually.