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# School Behaviour Policy

## Introduction

Abacus Belsize Primary School is committed to providing an environment where all people can feel safe, happy, accepted and integrated. It is important that an orderly framework should exist within which effective teaching and learning can take place.

Our emphasis will be on recognising and celebrating effort and success, so that all pupils feel valued. We will teach pupils to take responsibility for their own actions and to accept the consequences of their choices. We will adopt a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and any such incidents will be dealt with promptly and firmly.

The school holds an important position in the wider community, educating the young citizens of tomorrow in a way that will ensure that they take a positive and proactive role within their community in the future.

## Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Behaviour and discipline in schools
- Searching, screening and confiscation at school
- The Equality Act 2010
- Use of reasonable force in schools
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school

It is also based on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice.

In addition, this policy is based on *Schedule 1 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014*; paragraph 7 outlines a school’s duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, paragraph 9 requires the school to have a written behaviour policy and paragraph 10 requires the school to have an anti-bullying strategy. This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## Aims

- To encourage good behaviour and respect for others within and outside of the school
- To promote self-discipline and proper regard for authority among students
- To state what is expected of pupils
- To state what is expected from parents and carers
- To provide guidance on possible rewards and sanctions
- To ensure that staff are seen to be fair and consistent

## Who was consulted?

A committee of Local Governors worked with the school council to agree what constitutes good behaviour and to develop this policy, in consultation with parents, pupils and staff. All students are consulted at the beginning of each academic year on the rules, rewards and sanctions.

## Relationship to other policies

This Policy is linked to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying
- Exclusions
- Equality
- Home-School Agreement

## Scope and publication

This policy is publicised to all parents, pupils and staff in writing at least once a year and is available on the school website and on request. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible formats if required.

The School Rules, at Appendix A of this policy, as well as the tariff of Rewards and Sanctions, at Appendix B of this policy, are included in posters in each classroom.

## School Rules

The following is a summary of the School Rules:

The School Rules are set out in full at Appendix A.

## Conduct

Pupils are expected to be polite and show consideration towards each other, school staff and others. Pupils are required to assist the school with tackling bullying and to follow the school's Anti-bullying Policy.

Pupils, whether in or out of school, are expected to have:

- Respect for others: their feelings, opinions, cultures, limitations including any differences.
- Respect for themselves: pride in their own achievement and that of others in the school, high standards of behaviour and dress, and the desire to produce their best work at all times.
- Respect for the environment: their own, the school's and other people's property and the community in which we live.
- Respect for the future: the belief that we can all make a difference by our contribution to the local, national and global community.

### **Pupils are required to observe the following basic rules in the classroom:**

- Arrive on time with all the equipment needed for the lesson.
- Listen in silence when the teacher is giving instructions.
- Follow instructions promptly and accurately.
- Raise a hand to gain attention and only speak when invited.
- Stay in the allocated seat or workspace unless given permission to move.

The school has a Code of Conduct which sets out in detail the expectations of conduct for staff, Local Governing Body members and visitors to the school.

## Pupil support

The school recognises its legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to prevent pupils with a protected characteristic from being at a disadvantage. Consequently, our approach to challenging behaviour may be differentiated to cater to the needs of the pupil.

The school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator will evaluate a pupil who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met.

Where necessary, support and advice will also be sought from specialist teachers, an educational psychologist, medical practitioners and/or others, to identify or support specific needs.

When acute needs are identified in a pupil, we will liaise with external agencies and plan support programmes for that child. We will work with parents to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

## Rewards and sanctions

### Rewards

We believe that rewards can be more effective than punishment in motivating pupils. Positive behaviour management may be defined as the strategies the school employs to promote a well ordered, purposeful school community. These strategies underpin the Behaviour Policy. It is the school policy to recognise, acknowledge and reward individual achievements by pupils.

The following are examples of areas considered to be worthy of individual recognition:

- Recognition of meeting one of the characteristics of SMSC
- consistently improved standards of work
- good or outstanding pieces of work
- effort in class or for homework
- outstanding effort or achievement in extra-curricular activities
- service to the school or local community

The foundation for the achievement of good behaviour will involve praise, rewards, and sound relationship between teachers and pupils. We may reward pupils in the following ways:

- Celebration of 'staying on green' all week
- verbal praise by staff
- approving signs/acknowledgments
- class rewards
- sent to another teacher or HT with work
- personalised letters to parents
- celebration assemblies involving parents
- special privileges
- gold stars
- credits/merits/prizes
- certificates

## Sanctions

The school understands that the use of sanctions must be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances of the case and that account must be taken of a range of individual pupil needs in determining the appropriate use of such sanctions, including the pupil's age, any special educational needs or disability and any religious requirements affecting the pupil.

We understand that it is important for sanctions to be used consistently and for teachers and other staff to make it very clear to the recipient why a sanction is being applied.

The school has a range of disciplinary sanctions that may be implemented as appropriate and these are set out in full as a tariff system at Appendix B of this policy. Sanctions include:

- yellow warning card / red card
- withdrawal of privileges and/or responsibilities
- lunchtime/play time detentions
- time out in buddy class
- repetition of work
- referral to senior staff
- warning letter to parents
- report card
- fixed term exclusion
- permanent exclusion.

In all cases of misconduct, including those outside of the school, the Headteacher will consider whether the police or the local authority's anti-social behaviour coordinator should be notified of the disciplinary action taken. The police will always be informed where the pupil's behaviour is criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of public.

Where behavioural issues give cause to suggest that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, the school's child protection procedures will be followed.

## Beyond the school gate

This policy applies to all pupils at Abacus Belsize Primary School when they are in school, and in some circumstances, at the discretion of the Headteacher, when they are out of school and during half term and holidays.

In particular our policy covers any inappropriate behaviour when pupils:

- are taking part in any school organised or school related activity
- are travelling to or from school
- are wearing school uniform
- are in some way identifiable as a pupil within our school or CST
- behaviour could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- pose a threat to or affects the welfare of another pupil or member of the public
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school or the Trust.

The school is committed to ensuring our pupils act as positive ambassadors for us. Taking the above into account, we expect the following:

- Good order on all transport (including taxis) to and from school, educational visits or learning opportunities in other schools.

- Good behaviour on the way to and from school.
- Positive behaviour, which does not threaten the health, safety or welfare of our pupils, staff, volunteers or members of the public.
- Reassurance to members of the public about school care and control over pupils in order to protect the reputation of the school.
- Protection for individual staff and pupils from harmful conduct by pupils of the school when not on the school site.

The same behaviour expectations for pupils on the school premises apply to off-site behaviour.

## Exclusions

Permanent or fixed-term exclusion are possible sanctions for a breach of this policy. The school will follow government guidance on exclusions, unless there is good reason to depart from it. The school aims to operate within the principles of fairness and natural justice.

Please refer to the school's Exclusions Policy for further details on exclusions, including the school's approach, procedures, and reviews.

## Searching pupils

School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item which is banned by the School Rules (Set out at Appendix A).

The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher have the power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they suspect the pupil has a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property
- any item banned by the school rules.

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a pupil or their possessions will be carried out by a staff member of the same sex in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff of the same sex where possible. Any member of staff can carry out a search if he or she reasonably believes there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately and another member of staff cannot be summoned.

Searches without consent can only be carried out on the school premises or where the member of staff has lawful control or charge of a pupil, for example on school trips.

Staff may retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty where it is reasonable to do so. For example, alcohol, fireworks, tobacco or cigarette papers may be disposed of. These items will not be returned to the pupil.

## Phones and other electronic devices

When an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized by a member of staff, that staff member can examine data or files and delete these where there is good reason to do so.

There is **no need to have parental consent** to search through a young person's mobile phone.

If an electronic device that is prohibited by the school rules has been seized, and the member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that it contains evidence in relation to an offence, the member of staff will give the device to the police as soon as possible. Material that is suspected to be relevant to an offence will not be deleted before giving the device to the police.

If the staff member does not find any material that they suspect is evidence in relation to an offence, and decides not to give the device to the police, they will decide, in consultation with the Headteacher, whether it is appropriate to delete any files or data from the device, or whether to retain the device as evidence of a breach of school discipline.

### Use of reasonable force

All school staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils:

- committing an offence
- injuring themselves or others
- damaging property and
- to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.

The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher can use such force as is reasonable when searching a pupil without consent for prohibited items except where the search is for an item banned by the school rules.

When restraint is used by staff, this is recorded in writing and in serious cases, the parents of the pupil will be informed. Force is never used as a form of punishment.

The restraint record should include the following information:

- the name(s) and the job title(s) of the member(s) of staff who used reasonable force
- the name(s) of the child(ren) involved
- when and where the incident took place
- names of staff and child(ren) who witnessed the incident
- the reason that force was necessary
- behaviour of the child(ren) which led up to the incident
- any attempts to resolve the situation
- the degree of force used
- how it was applied
- how long it was used for
- the child's/children's response and the eventual outcome
- details of any injuries suffered by either staff or child(ren)
- details of any damage to property
- details of any medical treatment required (an accident form will be completed where medical treatment is needed)
- details of follow-up including contact with the parents/carers of the child(ren) involved
- details of follow up involvement of other agencies, police, social services.

Child witnesses may also be asked to provide a written account if appropriate. A copy of this entry will be kept on the child's file and retained in line with school guidelines.

## Malicious allegations against staff

Where a pupil makes an accusation against a member of staff and the accusation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the Headteacher will consider whether to take disciplinary action in accordance with this policy. Where such an allegation is made, appropriate support will be provided to the member of staff(s) affected.

## Bullying

If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached and the school's Anti-bullying Policy will be followed.

## Partnership with parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to sign the Home-School Agreement and are encouraged to work with the school to ensure that their children contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure learning environment. Parents/carers are required to use their best endeavours to ensure that their children's behaviour does not prevent others from learning effectively.

Parents/carers are entitled to an explanation of actions taken by the school, particularly the application of sanctions and the treatment of anti-social behaviour.

Parents do not have the legal right to withhold permission for detentions and are expected to co-operate with the school to ensure that pupils can return home safely at a later time.

## Multi-agencies and external advice

Where it becomes clear that a child is having ongoing difficulties in managing their behaviour, there are a wide range of strategies which are used to support pupils, they include:

- behaviour charts to enable celebration of good behaviour
- increased communication between home and school
- individual behaviour plans (IBPs)
- support from the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), identified teaching assistants, teachers
- small group work or 1:1 support in self-esteem, emotional literacy.

## Monitoring, evaluation and review

The Headteacher will evaluate the impact of this policy by collecting and analysing data by year group, gender and ethnicity on:

- number and range of rewards for good behaviour each term
- sanctions including fixed-term and permanent exclusions – number of, and analysis of behaviour
- number of detentions and analysis of behaviour
- instances of bullying and action taken.

Prior to any review of the policy, feedback will be sought from the school council, pupils, staff and parents on the effectiveness of the policy.

This effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed at least once a year by the Local Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed every year by the Trust.

## Appendix A: The School Rules

*Abacus Belsize Primary School uses the 'Stay on Green' approach to manage behaviour. If behaviour slips, a warning (yellow card) is placed in front of the child's name. If the behaviour improves, the card is removed and the child is back to green. If it does not improve, children receive a red card (time out card) and leave the class to spend 10 minutes in their buddy class. Once they return, they are back to green. During lunch or playtime, this 10 minutes must be made up by the pupil to catch up on missed work and to discuss their behaviour with the class teacher. All children return to green after a break. Children who show consistently green behaviour work towards silver or gold awards, with characteristics of SMSC being identified and celebrated.*

## Appendix B: Tariff of rewards and sanctions

*As above*