



# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Positive Behaviour Policy

Date Approved:	27th March 2019
Headteacher:	Mrs Helen Langeveld
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Julie Griffiths
Review Date:	26th March 2020

### Love, Respect, Value

St John's Church of England Primary School is committed to high expectations for all and to embracing equality.

*A school community has no higher task than to help children and young people develop a deep and proper sense of their worth. John Cox*

*Love and forgiveness will be deep rooted in our approach to behaviour.*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a whole school approach to high expectations for a positive, therapeutic, restorative and effective approach to behaviour. This will then enable learning to be at the centre of the school supported by a Christian ethos of love and forgiveness.

## **Aims**

St John's School places great importance on high standards of behaviour and every member of the school community is expected to value the school ethos and therefore enable all to learn successfully.

The values at St John's are based on core Christian values.

The Christian values of:

Loving your neighbour

Respecting each other

Valuing diversity

are integral to our school life.

These underpin all elements of school life, and enable every child to develop as a moral, social and spiritual human being. Every child, whatever their background, is valued as a unique child of God, and is enabled to grow in confidence and self-belief through their experience of school life at St John's. St John's provides a stimulating, disciplined, enriching learning environment where every child, whatever their needs, their language or their background has the opportunity to reach for the skies.

*Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their Potential.* EYFS September 2014

*'... we should try and to turn out people who love learning so much and learn so well that they will be able to learn whatever needs to be learned.'* John Holt

## **Objectives**

Everyone within the school has a right to:

- be safe
- learn in a positive environment
- be treated with respect

The school is committed to promoting high expectations for excellence in learning behaviours and respectful general behaviours. There will be an emphasis on consistency throughout the school, and expectations for behaviour will be shared every year with children, parents, staff and governors.

The school will operate a whole school positive behaviour management system based on the Hertfordshire Steps Approach which is a therapeutic, restorative approach. This recognises that part of the role of a school is to 'teach' behaviour and that we are responsible for growing 'internal discipline' in the children whom we teach. Behaviour expectations will be underpinned by Christian values e.g. showing love and respect to one another. Also modelling forgiveness will be key to actions taken.

### **Implementation**

The Behaviour Code will be shared every year with pupils and parents.

We positively encourage every member of the school community to be responsible for their own actions, their own property and the school and church environment.

To enhance and embed our core values so as to create a positive, purposeful, learning ethos we ask all members of the school community to:

Love

- To be kind in thoughts, words and deeds
- To take ownership and do your best
- To learn from mistakes and support others

Respect:

- To be respectful to all people and all property
- To listen carefully and communicate constructively
- To engage and contribute to the learning community

Value:

- To value the whole school team and care for others
- To value yourself and stay safe
- To learn to risk take, to grow in new areas and increase your personal value

### **Promoting Positive Behaviours**

Our school ethos of 'Growing Together in Love and Respect' alongside the monthly values are used as models and points of discussion by which to guide and teach our pupils about pro-social behaviours. These encompass all aspects of a child's life in school and serve to guide our children towards being positive, responsible, giving citizens.

Our approach is underpinned by the therapeutic values and principles outlined by Hertfordshire Steps. External discipline may suppress anti-social behaviour but long term behavioural change comes from developing internal discipline. We believe that children 'learn behaviour' and make positive behaviour choices through:

- Positive relationships with adults and peers - Having positive relationships with children and acting in a consistent and fair manner is the most effective way of ensuring a positive and engaging learning environment.
- Positive role models - Using words and actions that mirror the responses we are trying to encourage in children.

- Positive phrasing and repetition of expectations - Using agreed words and actions which are likely to be most effective in achieving the desired outcome for an individual.
  - Consistency - Working out the best way to support each individual child and ensure that approaches to that child are consistent.
    - Praise, positive reinforcement - Noticing when children are demonstrating socially acceptable behaviours and ensuring this is praised and rewarded. (Catch them being good!)
    - Comfort, calmness and forgiveness - Ensuring that when things go wrong the opportunity for learning is not lost and another opportunity to get it right is given.

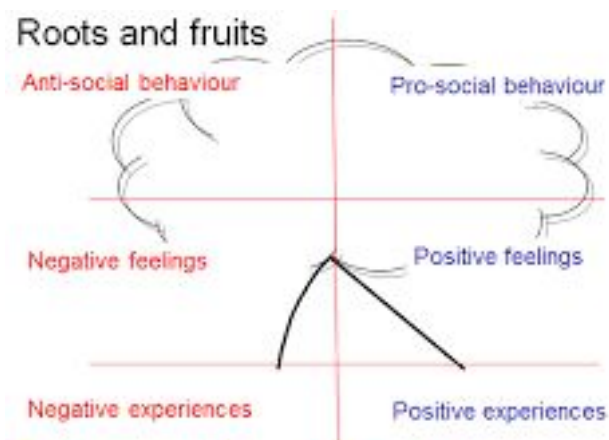
We aim to Analyse and not Moralise.

Analyse = Examine (something) methodically and in detail, typically in order to understand, explain and interpret it.

Moralise = To comment on issues of right and wrong, typically with an unfounded air of superiority. The important principle is that we ANALYSE children's behaviour and not MORALISE about it. Finding out why a child acts in a particular way is the key to supporting them in learning how to change it by using consequences that are designed to create understanding in the child.

Staff are encouraged to investigate and acknowledge how behaviour, experiences and feelings are inseparably linked.

Positive experiences create positive feelings. Positive feelings create positive behaviour. Negative experiences create negative feelings. Negative feelings create negative behaviour. (Hertfordshire's Behaviour and Attendance Strategy, 2014)



Undesirable behaviours (anti-social behaviours) are limited by disempowering the behaviour that is to be discouraged. Using positive phrasing, limiting choice, disempowering the behaviour and applying educational consequences will help a pupil to learn the more appropriate pro-social behaviours over time.

Positive phrasing:

Come sit next to me for a story.

Limited choice:

Would you like to sit on the chair or bean bag?

Disempowering the behaviour:

You can listen to the story from there.

Consequence:

We will check you understand the story before going out for break time.

*Reflect, repair, restore is the restorative justice approach to inappropriate anti social behaviours that puts repairing harm done to relationships and people over and above the need for assigning blame and dispensing punishment.*

Wright 1999

Procedures are in place for supporting and debriefing the pupil after any significant incident, as it is essential to safeguard their emotional well being and help them to reflect and progress.

Teachers are to:

- Explore what happened? (tell the story)
- Explore what people were thinking and feeling at the time?
- Explore who has been affected and how?
- Explore how we can repair relationships?
- Summarise what we have learnt so we are able to respond differently next time?

Educational consequences must always form part of this restorative approach.

We always try to ensure that the child understands the reason/s their behaviour was seen as undesirable and to teach them alternative behaviours.

We aim to inform and involve parents as necessary and look for the reinforcement of parental support. Parents are always welcome to come and discuss any worries about their child with us. The school will work closely with parents to support children with behaviour difficulties.

We believe that it is important for children to know that all members of staff follow the same codes of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour so that children are treated fairly and consistently. This policy is followed throughout the whole of the school day, whether on or off-site.

Incidents of bullying will be addressed following the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

## **Consequences**

It is essential that there is always an educational consequence. We must be able to show how we have helped the student develop new skills or new ways of thinking through discussion, debrief activity or rehearsing. Educational consequences provide the student with the skills and incentives to behave differently faced with the same set of circumstances reoccurring.

What does the child need to learn?

How are we going to teach it?

Sometimes a protective consequence is needed immediately until we have been successful with our educational consequences. Protective consequences are solely actions to ensure no further harm occurs in the short term.

Children need to learn where the bounds of acceptable behaviour lie, as this is a part of growing up.

Each case is treated individually. Minor breaches of discipline are generally dealt with by the class teacher in a supportive and fair manner, with some flexibility regarding age of the child, as far as consequences are concerned. If anti social behaviours are persistent or recurring a meeting will be arranged with the class teacher and parent to discuss appropriate plans for assisting the child to make appropriate choices. The Headteacher will be involved if problems are serious.

Children are made aware that they are responsible for their own behaviour and that if their behaviour prevents someone else enjoying their rights or does not live up to our agreed school values it may lead to further consequences.

## **Recording of incidents**

Any serious or more persistent issue is recorded on the child's Scholarpack and the Key Stage Lead/Headteacher is made aware. If there is a major breach of the behaviour code, the Headteacher is informed immediately.

## **Major breaches of discipline**

Major breaches of discipline (such as discriminatory behaviour, deliberate physical assault or damage to property, bullying, foul or abusive language, stealing, refusal to work) are generally rare and it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to deal with it appropriately. Parents will be involved in all such cases. On some occasions it may be deemed necessary for an internal exclusion where a child is removed from their classroom and is supervised in their learning by a member of staff.

## **Procedures for Dealing with Major Breaches of Discipline**

If the problem is severe or recurring then exclusion procedures may be implemented:

- A case conference involving parents and support agencies and a behaviour support plan implemented
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

Parents have the right of appeal to the Governing Body against any decision to exclude.

## **Physical Restraint and Positive Handling**

There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with individuals for a variety of reasons, for example:

- To comfort a student (in a very stressed situation)
- To direct or steer a student
- For activity reasons (for example in drama, physical games)
- To ensure the safety of a student or their peers

At St John's physical contact with children is limited to a bare minimum and only to be used to meet the needs of the child and/or a specific situation. For example - whole class/group walking outside of school and to keep the pace the school adult holds a hand with the lead child if their permission has been sought verbally and they are comfortable to do so. If a child is in need of comfort the adult should sit to the side of the child or place a hand on their shoulder with the purpose of calming them. However if a child is extremely distressed/hurt, the teacher's duty of care to act in loco parentis may require the child to have an arm around them or for the younger child to sit on an adult's knee. This requires the presence of two adults and is only to be done to meet the child's needs and with their free will.

If a situation arises where for the child's safety or those of their peers a child needs to be moved to a different place then only the handling techniques taught to all staff through the STEPS training are to be applied.

## **Behaviour modification strategies**

This Positive Behaviour Policy is the plan for the majority of children. However, in addition some children may require Anxiety Mapping to ascertain where their anti social behaviours are triggered and to then plan for reduction of the triggers. Individual Risk Reduction Plans are available for children who need a further personalised approach. These are to be constructed with class teacher/Senco/parents/child as deemed appropriate.

Some children may require additional more specialised intervention from an external agency that can provide advice and guidance to parents and the school. This might include the Behaviour Support Team, an Educational Psychologist or a member of the Child and Adult Mental Health Team. In such cases it is likely that an Individual Behaviour Plan will already have been developed in order to provide support for the child and a Team Around the Family meeting be initiated. In some cases additional adult support may be required.

## **Crisis Management**

Written guidelines cannot cover every eventuality and the professional judgement of individual staff will always be critical in assessing the risk factors inherent in a given situation.

The school agrees that:

- Members of the Leadership Team are available to help in a crisis.
- If a child leaves the school premises without permission, the Headteacher or Deputy Head teacher is informed. They will confirm that the child is not in the school or the grounds. The parents will be contacted and asked to bring the child back to school. If the parents cannot be contacted the police will be informed. Staff will not follow the child once he/she has left the school grounds.

- In extreme circumstances if a child acts violently in a lesson, endangering others and cannot be controlled, the teacher should ensure the safety of the other children and themselves. This may involve:
  - Using the Red badge sending a child for help from other staff
  - Issuing instructions for the child to stop, clearly using their name
  - Removing the child from the area where they are causing disruption.
  - If necessary taking the class out of the room leaving the child with an adult if possible.

It is acknowledged that at these extreme times a teacher cannot guarantee the health and safety of the child concerned. They will use the strategies outlined to ensure as far as possible the safety of other children and themselves. The power to use reasonable force will only be used when all other options have failed and the child's actions are preventing other children from learning or there is a high level of concern for the safety of others. Parents/carers will receive an accurate report of any incident including concerns raised.

### **Keeping records**

It is essential that a written record of behaviour is kept in case further action is required. This will be the responsibility of the class teacher and the designated member of the SLT together with contributions from any other staff who are involved. This will be stored on the MIS system for evidence/tracking as required.

### **Exclusion**

The school follows the DfE guidance. Copies are available from the school office.

Only the Head teacher can exclude a pupil from school. Exclusion of a pupil is a last resort, although rapid response can be made if there is an immediate risk to the safety of others in the school or the pupil concerned. A decision to exclude a child will be taken if:

- the pupil seriously breaches the school behaviour policy in a violent way;
- a range of alternative strategies have been tried and failed;
- allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the welfare of the pupil, other pupils, or staff.

Exclusion can be in response to a single very exceptional incident or as a result of a number of incidents growing in seriousness over a period of time.

Before reaching a decision the Head teacher will:

- Consider the evidence of the allegation
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events
- Check whether racial, sexual or other forms of harassment provoked the incident and take these into consideration.

The class teacher of an excluded pupil is required to set and mark work for the duration of the exclusion period in line with the DfE recommendations. Fixed term exclusions cannot exceed 15 days in a single block and 45 days in a school year. In any event after 6 days of exclusion, the child is required to follow an education programme at a school.



### **In summary**

By using a positive system, with clear boundaries, and a therapeutic restorative approach we help our children to develop confidence, healthy self-esteem and a set of skills and strategies, which will take them on to the next stage of their schooling and into adult life. This enables every person in the school community to grow and flourish as they live and learn in the family of God.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

All members of staff are responsible for the ongoing implementation and evaluation of the Behaviour Policy. All observations (positive and negative) are to be fed back to the Headteacher around:

- Pupils attitude to learning
- Pupils behaviour around school and in lessons
- Pupils behaviour towards and respect for each other.
- How well teachers manage the behaviour and expectations of pupils to ensure that all pupils have an equal and fair chance to thrive.
- The extent to which the school ensures the systematic and consistent management of behaviour
- The extent to which there is a positive ethos in school.
- The engagement of parents in supporting pupils' behaviour.
- Behaviour will be an ongoing item on the weekly staff meeting agenda alongside Health and Safety.
- The Headteacher will report to Governors about behaviour in the half termly Headteacher report.
- The Headteacher and SLT will regularly drop into classrooms to monitor and evaluate behaviour and will share their findings with the staff at staff meetings.
- Lesson observation and Lesson Study systems will focus on Behaviour and its effect on learning.
- Staff voice and pupil voice will be gathered about behaviour and adjustments made as a result.
- Eagle Advisors will be involved in evaluations and next steps.
- New staff will be trained as part of induction.

Legislation:                    Education and inspections Act 2006: Section 5  
   Education Act 2011

Statutory Guidance: Independent Schools Standards Regulations (Schedule 1 part 3 paragraph 9)

Website:                    [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/schele/1/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/schele/1/made)  
   [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/g00210521/statutory-guidance-regs-2012>