

Governors' written statement of general principles for the behaviour policy

Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 governing bodies must ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of its pupils are pursued at the school.

As part of this requirement, the governing body must make and review a written statement of general principles to guide the Headteacher in developing behaviour policy at the school.

The purpose of this statement is to give clear advice and guidance to the Headteacher.

The statement also underpins the governing body's duties for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the general duty to eliminate discrimination in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Statement of principles

The governors of Cupernham Junior School believe that all pupils at our school should be able to learn and achieve to their full potential in an environment that is safe, orderly, happy and an inspiring place to learn.

To achieve this, the behaviour policy should:

- Help all children learn and maintain high standards of behaviour,
- Minimise disruption to learning,
- Include a system of rewards and sanctions,
- Seek to eliminate all forms of harassment and bullying.

The behaviour policy should be written and applied with consistency and fairness. We seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including discrimination associated with protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010).

There will be an emphasis on encouraging positive behaviour by:

- Setting out expectations of behaviour in the classroom, at break and lunchtime, and more widely within the school community,
- Making sure pupils know and understand these expectations,
- Having reward systems that encourage and recognise positive attitude, achievement, responsibility, and good behaviour,
- Ensuring that pupils are helped to accept responsibility for their own actions and understand the consequences for poor behaviour,
- Creating an environment that is safe and enjoyable and encouraging pupils to report poor behaviour, harassment, or bullying,

- Working in partnership with parents/carers to encourage their children to meet expectations of behaviour,
- Ensuring all staff actively help children to improve their behaviour,
- Providing information in school, in clear, child-friendly language.

Some pupils experience particular difficulties with managing their behaviour and the school behaviour policy should recognise this and set out how these pupils will be supported to achieve the same high standards of behaviour as other pupils.

Sanctions

Sometimes sanctions will be necessary to show that misbehaviour is not acceptable and to deter other pupils from similar unacceptable behaviour. The governors support the use of appropriate sanctions as part of the behaviour policy.

Sanctions will be proportionate, and the policy will set out clearly how, when and what sanctions will be applied, giving examples of behaviour that will trigger sanctions.

Sanctions will generally be stepped in accordance with the level of misbehaviour. However, the safety and well-being of the school community is paramount. The governing body therefore accepts that the Headteacher or other school staff may need to use professional judgement to make decisions in response to individual situations. The governors support the right of the school to permanently exclude pupils for a single offence where it is considered that allowing a pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of other pupils or other members of the school community.

In all cases of serious misconduct, including those outside of school, the Headteacher will consider whether the police should be notified of the incident. The police and parents/carers will always be informed where the student's behaviour is criminal or is considered to pose a serious threat to any other person.

Use of reasonable force

Any use of force by staff to keep pupils from harming, or further harming, themselves or others must be reasonable, proportionate, lawful and in line with the school's Physical Intervention Policy.

Searching pupils

In the interests of pupil safety, the governors support the school to use their powers to search pupils for items prohibited by the school if this is done in accordance with the law and current Department for Education guidance. The behaviour policy will include guidance on what constitutes prohibited items.

Scope of policy (power to discipline beyond the school gate)

The governors expect the behaviour policy to apply to pupils whilst on the school premises, when engaged in any extra- curricular clubs or activities, sporting events or whilst on any educational trips/visits arranged by the school, including residential. The governors intend that the school rules and sanctions in the behaviour policy shall also apply in appropriate circumstances (where it is lawful to do so) to pupils when travelling to or from school and outside of the school day. This will normally be where the conduct in question could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, affects the welfare of a member or members of the school community or a member of the public, or which brings the school into disrepute. This may include incidents arising in respect of the use of social media and other technology.

Monitoring and Review

The Governance Board will review this statement every 3 years unless changes at national or local level necessitate an earlier review.