

Positive Behaviour Policy

Aims and objectives

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school's behaviour policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment in which everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

This reflects our school vision which states:

'Ballyholme Primary School is a caring school where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected. It is a happy school, where all, individually and together, play a part in developing pride in self, in school, in others and work towards developing their potential in becoming responsible future citizens.'

As a Rights Respecting School our behaviour policy is based on Article 28 which states that:

'Discipline in schools must respect children's human dignity.'

Code of Conduct/ Classroom Charters

The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others. The school has a Code of Conduct (Appendix 1), but our behaviour policy is not primarily concerned with rule enforcement. It is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn.

Every class creates their own Class Charter each year which is based on children's rights. The charters outline the rights of the child but also the behaviours/actions needed to ensure that they are upheld. Every member of the class is involved in deciding what the charter should say and signs to agree that they will follow it. Charters are also signed by teachers and classroom assistants.

During the Covid-19 pandemic it is more important than ever that all pupils adhere to school rules and routines which have been put in place in order to keep everyone safe. In the event of a pupil not following procedures or deliberately behaving in a manner that could be harmful e.g. coughing/spitting in someone's face parents will be contacted and sanctions may be applied.

Positive Behaviour

The school rewards good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and cooperation. We praise and reward children for good behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Positive comment from a member of staff
- Sticker/ Stamp on book/ Praise pads
- Whole class 'Cubes in the Jar' – children can earn a cube for the jar for good behaviour. When the jar is full the whole class receives the agreed reward.
- Sent to another teacher/ Year Head/ Principal for praise

- P5-7 classes operate a merit system where children earn merits for good work, effort or behaviour
- Pupil of the day award for children in P1 & P2
- Weekly class celebrations for P3/P4 in assembly
- Certificate of achievement awards for children in P5-P7 linked to specific focus
- Additional playground time for class winning the playground lines award

Sanctions

The school employs a number of sanctions to ensure a safe and positive learning environment. We employ each sanction appropriately to each individual situation.

Examples of sanctions used include:

- Rule reminder
- Speaking to the child- warning
- Speaking to child again – consequence applied e.g. thumbs down/ strike
- For more serious incidents 2 or 3 strikes may be awarded immediately
- Time out- including break and lunchtimes in playground
- P3 & P4 children may be sent to another classroom at break or lunchtime
- P5-7 children will be asked to copy out their class charter at home and get it signed by their parents if they receive 2 strikes in 1 day
- P5-7 children will receive an afternoon reflection time if they receive 3 strikes in 1 day
- Any child in reflection time three or more times in a term will have an official letter sent home to parents from the Key Stage Co-ordinator
- Report Card (used as a means of daily communication between home and school)
- Sent to Head of Year
- Sent to Head of Key Stage
- Sent to Principal
- Suspension
- Expulsion

A pupil incident record (Appendix 2) is kept by each teacher for either repeated misbehaviour or serious incidents. The class teacher will contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of a child.

It must be noted, however, that no information about action taken in relation to a pupil can be disclosed to anyone other than the pupil and his/her parents/carers.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The school collaborates actively with parents and carers, so that children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school. We try to build a supportive dialogue between home and school and we will inform parents if we have a concern about their child's welfare or behaviour. If the school has to use sanctions we expect the parents to support the actions of the school. It is vitally important that school and home work in partnership to promote positive behaviour.

Complaints Procedure

If there is a concern about a child or the way a child has been treated, parents should contact the class teacher in the first instance.

If the concern remains parents or staff may refer the matter to:

1. the Head of Year
2. the Head of Key Stage/ Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

In the event that these discussions cannot resolve the problem then an appointment may be made with the Principal.

At all stages the pupil incident record should be completed.

Monitoring and Review

Each Key Stage Co-ordinator will monitor the pupil incident records on a regular basis. Any concerns will be shared with the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and the Principal, who will decide on the plan of action to be taken.

The implementation of this policy is monitored regularly and the policy is reviewed in full every 2 years.

Links with other policies

This policy forms part of the pastoral care structure in Ballyholme Primary School and should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Child Protection
Anti-Bullying
Health and Safety
Acceptable use of the Internet
Administration of medicines
Educational Visits
Pastoral Care
Special Needs and Inclusion

Reviewed: September 2023