



TWHF Behaviour Policy

Key Document Details

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Author: Simon Cowley

Owner: Simon Cowley

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1. Aims and expectations

- 1.1 This policy aims to help children to grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.
- 1.2 Whilst each individual school within the Trust has its own statement of behaviour principles reflecting the context of the school, this over-arching policy sets out the Trust's core beliefs and expectations about pupil/student behaviour and the important role staff have to play in responding effectively.
- 1.3 It is a primary aim of our trust that every member of the school community feels valued, respected, and safe. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all.
- 1.4 Relationships are key. The trust expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate, and respectful way towards others.
- 1.5 We treat all pupils and students fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way.
- 1.6 We teach our pupils and students to care for one another and respect boundaries around their bodies and belongings.
- 1.7 Staff receive training to ensure they are trauma aware and also trauma responsive, so that they have the skill and tools to support pupils/students effectively.
- 1.8 The effectiveness of this policy can be measured by staff and pupil/student well-being.
- 1.9 To define what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and discrimination
- 1.10 Outlines how pupils/students are expected to behave.

2. Our understanding of behaviour

- 2.1 For pupils/students to engage with their learning they need to feel safe, secure and listened to.
- 2.2 Pupils/students need consistent expectations/rules in place which are clear, regularly re-visited and adapted where needed.
- 2.3 Relationships are at the heart of our approach to behaviour across the Trust.
- 2.4 Staff recognise that behaviour is a form of communication and needs to be actively listened to.
- 2.5 Where pupils/students have suffered or are suffering from abuse or neglect, we recognise that they will need additional support when they are distressed and displaying challenging or disruptive behaviour.
- 2.6 For staff to respond effectively to challenging or disruptive behaviour they need to understand what the behaviour is telling them about the child and their needs.

Definitions

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes
- Non-completion of classwork or homework
- Poor attitude
- Incorrect uniform

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of the school rules
- Any form of bullying
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault (intentional sexual touching without consent)
- Sexual harassment, meaning unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Sexual comments
 - Sexual jokes or taunting
 - Physical behaviour like interfering with clothes
 - Online sexual harassment such as unwanted sexual comments and messages (including on social media), sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos, or sharing of unwanted explicit content
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting
- Smoking
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Possession of any prohibited items. These are:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Stolen items
 - Tobacco and cigarette papers
 - Fireworks
 - Pornographic images
 - Any article a staff member reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)

Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racial• Faith-based• Gendered (sexist)• Homophobic/biphobic• Transphobic• Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites

Details of each school's approach to preventing and addressing bullying are set out in their anti-bullying policy.

3. Anti-bullying

- 3.1 We recognise that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create barriers to learning and can have serious consequences for the mental health and well-being of our pupils and students.
- 3.2 We promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying in the first instance and require all members of our community to work with the school to prevent bullying.
- 3.3 The trust and each school within it does not tolerate bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to prevent any further occurrences of such behaviour. While it is very difficult to eradicate bullying, we do everything in our power to ensure that all children attend school free from fear.

4. Positive re-inforcement

4.1 Praise and positive re-inforcement are used by staff to achieve the Trust's aims.

- teachers congratulate children;
- teachers give children success points;
- sharing good work with other classes/teachers
- acknowledgement of good behaviour during assembly times;
- sharing good news with parents

5. Use of reasonable force / physical intervention

- 5.1 All members of staff are aware of the regulations regarding the use of force by teachers, as set out in **Use of reasonable force – advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies. (Reference: DFE-00295-2013) and the Education Act 1996 (section 550A: The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils)**. Staff only intervene physically to restrain children or to prevent injury to a child, or if a child is in danger of hurting him/herself. The actions that we take are in line with government guidelines on the restraint of children. This policy should be read in conjunction with the trust policy on physical restraint of pupils.
- 5.2 Staff can use reasonable force to prevent pupils/students from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or from causing disorder.

6. The role of the teacher/tutor

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the teacher/tutor to ensure that pupils/students know and understand the school rules and expectations about behaviour.
- 6.2 The teachers/tutors in our schools have high expectations of the children in terms of behaviour, and they strive to promote positive relationships
- 6.3 The teacher/tutor treats each child fairly and with respect and understanding. Also providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular pupils
- 6.4 The teachers/tutors are responsible for implementing the behaviour policy and the school's statement of procedures consistently.
- 6.5 The teacher/tutor will work alongside members of the school safeguarding team to ensure that where safeguarding or child protection concerns have been identified, this informs teaching and learning so that adaptations can be made, where required.
- 6.5 The teacher/tutor reports to parents about the progress of each child in their class, in line with the whole-school policy. The teacher/tutor may also contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of a child.

7. The role of the safeguarding team

- 7.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will work in partnership with teachers and tutors to ensure headline information about safeguarding and child protection is shared, on a need to know basis.
- 7.2 The DSL will work collaboratively with teaching staff and tutors to ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to adapt teaching and learning in light of any complex trauma a pupil/student may have experienced/be experiencing.

8. The role of the senior leadership team of TWHF and School

- 8.1 It is the responsibility of the Executive Directors supported by the CEO, under the **School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the behaviour and discipline in schools advice for headteachers and school staff (DFE-00023-2014)** to ensure that the principals and staff implement the school behaviour policy consistently throughout the school, and to report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy. It is also the responsibility of the principal to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children in the school.
- 8.2 The principal of each setting supports the staff and the Executive Director by implementing the policy, by setting the standards of behaviour, and by supporting staff in the implementation of the policy.
- 8.3 The principal of each setting keeps records of all reported serious incidents of misbehaviour.
- 8.4 The principal of the school has the responsibility for giving fixed-term exclusions to individual children for serious acts of misbehaviour. For repeated or very serious acts of anti-social behaviour, the principal has the authority to permanently exclude a child but only following discussions, advice and written consent from the CEO. Both these actions are only taken after the school governors have been notified.

9. The role of parents

- 9.1 Each school works collaboratively with parents, so children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school.
- 9.2 We explain the school rules in the school prospectus, and we expect parents to read these and support them.
- 9.3 We expect parents to support their child's learning, and to co-operate with the school, as set out in the home–school agreement. We try to build a supportive dialogue between the home and the school, and we inform parents immediately if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.
- 9.4 If the school has to use reasonable sanctions with a child, parents should support the actions of the school. If parents have any concern about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the school governors. If these discussions cannot resolve the problem, a formal grievance or appeal process can be implemented.

10. The role of governors (Local Board of Governors)

- 10.1 The governors have the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on standards of discipline and behaviour, and of reviewing their effectiveness. The governors support the CEO, Executive Directors and principal in carrying out these guidelines.
- 10.2 The principal in each setting has the day-to-day authority to implement the school behaviour and discipline policy and statement of procedures.

11. Pupil code of conduct

11.1 **Expectations.** In all schools pupils/students are expected to:

- Behave in an orderly and self-controlled way
- Show respect to members of staff and each other
- In class, make it possible for all pupils to learn
- Move quietly around the school
- Treat the school buildings and school property with respect
- Wear the correct uniform at all times
- Accept sanctions when given
- Refrain from behaving in a way that brings the school into disrepute, including when outside school

11.2 Zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence

Each school will ensure that all incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence are met with a suitable response, and never ignored.

Pupils/students are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable, no matter how 'small' they feel it might be.

The school's response will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

Sanctions for sexual harassment and violence may include:

- A verbal warning
- Keeping the pupil behind after class to apologise to their peer
- A letter or phone call to parents
- Detention
- Community service, for example litter picking
- Fixed-term (length dependent on incident) or permanent exclusion

Each school has procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing. These include clear processes for:

- Responding to a report
- Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:
 - Manage the incident internally
 - Refer to early help
 - Refer to children's social care
 - Report to the police

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information

11.3 Off-site behaviour

Sanctions may be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site when representing the school. This means misbehaviour when the pupil is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity (e.g. school trips)
- Travelling to or from school
- Wearing school uniform
- In any other way identifiable as a pupil of the school

Sanctions may also be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misbehaviour:

- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school

Sanctions will only be given out on school premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the staff member (e.g. on a school-organised trip).

11.4 Malicious allegations

Where a pupil makes an allegation against a member of staff and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.

Where a pupil makes an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment against another pupil and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.

In all cases where an allegation is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the school (in collaboration with the local authority designated officer, where relevant) will consider whether the pupil who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help. If so, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

The school will also consider the pastoral needs of staff and pupils accused of misconduct.

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information on responding to allegations of abuse against staff or other pupils.

12. Fixed-term and permanent exclusions

(The School must follow the statutory guidance 'Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England' DFE-00184-2017 when considering an exclusion)

- 12.1 The principal has the legal authority to permanently exclude a pupil from school. However, this may only be done following discussions with the CEO who will provide advice and ensure that the statutory guidance has been followed. The principal must receive written authorisation from the CEO prior to finalising a permanent exclusion. The principal may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year.
- 12.2 If the principal excludes a pupil, s/he informs the parents without delay, giving reasons for the exclusion and the period of a fixed term exclusion or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact it is permanent. At the same time, the principal makes it clear parents' right to make representations about the exclusion to the governing board, how any representations should be made; and where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to consider the exclusion, that parents have a right to attend the meeting.
- 12.3 The principal informs the LA and the governing board about any permanent exclusion, fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term and any exclusion which would result in the pupil missing a public examination or national curriculum test. The CEO must be copied into all such correspondence.
- 12.4 The governing board itself cannot either exclude a pupil or extend the exclusion period made by the principal.
- 12.5 The governing board has a discipline committee which is made up of between three and five members. This committee considers the reinstatement of an excluded pupil on behalf of the governing board.
- 12.6 When the committee meets to consider an exclusion, they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, consider any representation by parents and the LA, and consider whether the pupil should be reinstated.
- 12.7 If the committee decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the principal of that setting must comply with this ruling.

13. Confiscation

- 13.1 **Any prohibited items (listed in section 3) found in pupils' possession will be confiscated.** These items will not be returned to pupils.
- 13.2 We will also confiscate any item which is harmful or detrimental to school discipline. These items will be returned to pupils after discussion with senior leaders and parents, if appropriate.
- 13.3 Searching and screening pupils is conducted in line with the DfE's [latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#).

14. Pupil support

- 14.1 The Trust and each 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.
- 14.2 Each school's special educational needs co-ordinator will evaluate a pupil who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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.

15. Safeguarding

The Trust and each school recognises that changes in behaviour may be an indicator that a pupil is in need of help or protection. We will consider whether a pupil's misbehaviour may be linked to them suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, we will follow our child protection and safeguarding policy.

16. Monitoring

- 16.1 The principal and the Executive Directors monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. The principal also reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements. The effectiveness of the policy can be measured by staff and pupil/student well-being.
- 16.2 The teacher/tutor records minor classroom incidents. The principal records those incidents where a child is sent to him/her for additional support. We also keep a record of any incidents that occur at break or lunchtimes.
- 16.3 The principal keeps a record of any pupil who is excluded for a fixed-term, or who is permanently excluded.
- 16.4 It is the responsibility of the governing board to monitor the rate of exclusions, and to ensure that the school policy is administered fairly and consistently.

17. Review

- 17.1 The senior leadership team of the TWHF will review this policy every year. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

18. Legislation and statutory requirements

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

Behaviour and discipline in schools

[Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)

[The Equality Act 2010](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

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

[DfE guidance](#) explaining that academies should publish their behaviour policy and anti-bullying strategy online

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

