

*we pray we live we play we learn*

**St. Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Academy**



**Behaviour Policy**

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**Approved:**

## Contents

1. Aims .....	3
2. Legislation and statutory requirements .....	3
3. Definitions .....	3
4. Bullying .....	4
5. Roles and responsibilities .....	5
6. Pupil code of conduct .....	5
7. Rewards and sanctions .....	5
8. Behaviour management .....	6
9. Pupil transition .....	7
10. Training.....	8
11. Monitoring arrangements .....	8
12. Links with other policies .....	8
Appendix 1: written statement of behaviour principles .....	9
Appendix 2: staff training log .....	10
Appendix 3: behaviour log.....	11
Appendix 4: letters to parents about pupil behaviour – templates.....	12

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide a **consistent approach** to behaviour management and recognises **reconciliation** as an integral part of the school's Catholic mission
- **Define** what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying
- Outline **how pupils are expected to behave**
- Summarise the **roles and responsibilities** of different people in the school community with regards to behaviour management
- Outline our system of **rewards and sanctions**
- Acknowledge that everyone deserves a **fresh start** and are given support where appropriate to change their behaviour

## 2. 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](#)
- [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.

## 3. 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

**Serious misbehaviour** is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of the school rules

- Any form of bullying
- Sexual assault, which is any unwanted sexual behaviour that causes humiliation, pain, fear or intimidation
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Possession of any prohibited items such as
  - Knives or weapons
  - Alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs
  - Stolen items
  - 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)

#### 4. 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. At St Winefride's we say Several Times On Purpose (STOP).

Bullying is, therefore:

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

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including those within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 – age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

- Bullying related to race, religion, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability)
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic or biphobic bullying)
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist, sexual bullying
- Bullying related to gender identity
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying

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

## **5. Roles and responsibilities**

### **5.1 The governing board**

The governing board is responsible for monitoring this behaviour policy's effectiveness and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **5.2 The headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for reviewing and approving this behaviour policy.

The headteacher will ensure that the school environment encourages positive behaviour and that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour, and will monitor how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently.

### **5.3 Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Modelling positive behaviour
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular pupils
- Recording behaviour incidents (see appendix 3 for a behaviour log)

The senior leadership team will support staff in responding to behaviour incidents.

### **5.4 Parents**

Parents are expected to:

- Support their child in adhering to the pupil code of conduct
- Inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly

## **6. Pupil code of conduct**

Pupils 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

## **7. Rewards and sanctions**

### **7.1 List of rewards and sanctions**

Positive behaviour will be rewarded with:

- Praise
- House points
- Merit stickers
- Letters or phone calls home to parents
- Special responsibilities/privileges

The school may use one or more of the following sanctions in response to unacceptable behaviour:

- A verbal reprimand
- Sending the pupil out of the class (usually to a neighbouring class)
- Expecting work to be completed at home, or at break or lunchtime
- Referring the pupil to a senior member of staff
- Giving a 'Blue Card' which is noted in the pupil's organiser
- Letters or phone calls home to parents
- Agreeing a behaviour contract
- Putting a pupil 'on report'

See appendix 4 for sample letters to parents about their child's behaviour.

## **7.2 Off-site behaviour**

Sanctions may be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site when representing the school, such as on a school trip or on the bus on the way to or from school.

## **7.3 Malicious allegations**

Where a pupil makes an accusation against a member of staff and that accusation is shown to have been malicious, the headteacher will discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.

Please refer to our safeguarding policy/statement of procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff for more information on responding to allegations of abuse.

The headteacher will also consider the pastoral needs of staff accused of misconduct.

## **8. Behaviour management**

### **8.1 Classroom management**

Teaching and support staff are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the classroom.

They will:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages pupils to be engaged
- Display the pupil code of conduct or their own classroom rules
- Develop a positive relationship with pupils, which may include:
  - Greeting pupils in the morning/at the start of lessons
  - Establishing clear routines

- Communicating expectations of behaviour in ways other than verbally
- Highlighting and promoting good behaviour
- Concluding the day positively and starting the next day afresh
- Having a plan for dealing with low-level disruption
- Using positive reinforcement

## 8.2 Physical restraint

In some circumstances, staff may use reasonable force to restrain a pupil to prevent them:

- Causing disorder
- Hurting themselves or others
- Damaging property

Incidents of physical restraint must:

- **Always be used as a last resort**
- Be applied using the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time possible
- Be used in a way that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned
- Never be used as a form of punishment
- Be recorded and reported to parents (see appendix 3 for a behaviour log)

## 8.3 Confiscation

**Any prohibited items (listed in section 3) found in pupils' possession will be confiscated.** These items will not be returned to pupils.

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.

Searching and screening pupils is conducted in line with the DfE's [latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#).

## 8.4 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 co-ordinator 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.

## 9. Pupil transition

To ensure a smooth transition to the next year, pupils have transition sessions with their new teacher(s). In addition, staff members hold transition meetings.

To ensure behaviour is continually monitored and the right support is in place, information related to pupil behaviour issues may be transferred to relevant staff at the start of the term or year. Information on behaviour issues may also be shared with new settings for those pupils transferring to other schools.

## **10. Training**

Our staff are provided with training on managing behaviour as part of their induction process

Behaviour management will also form part of continuing professional development.

A staff training log can be found in appendix 2.

## **11. Monitoring arrangements**

This behaviour policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and Full Governing Body every two years. At each review, the policy will be approved by the headteacher.

## **12. Links with other policies**

This behaviour policy is linked to the following policies:

- Exclusions policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- SEND Policy



## **Appendix 1: written statement of behaviour principles**

- In line with our Catholic ethos, forgiveness and reconciliation are important factors in managing behaviour in the school
- Every pupil understands they have the right to feel safe, valued and respected, and learn free from the disruption of others
- All pupils, staff and visitors are free from any form of discrimination
- Staff and volunteers set an excellent example to pupils at all times
- Rewards, sanctions and reasonable force are used consistently by staff, in line with the behaviour policy
- The behaviour policy is understood by pupils and staff
- The exclusions policy explains that exclusions will only be used as a last resort, and outlines the processes involved in permanent and fixed-term exclusions
- Pupils are helped to take responsibility for their actions
- Families are involved in behaviour incidents to foster good relationships between the school and pupils' home life

The governing board also emphasises that violence or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated in any circumstances.



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### Appendix 3: behaviour log

<b>Pupil's name:</b>	
<b>Name of staff member reporting the incident:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Where did the incident take place?</b>	
<b>When did the incident take place? (Before school, after school, lunchtime, break time)</b>	
<b>What happened?</b>	
<b>Who was involved?</b>	
<b>What actions were taken, including any sanctions?</b>	
<b>Is any follow-up action needed? If so, give details</b>	
<b>People informed of the incident (staff, governors, parents, police):</b>	

## Appendix 4: letters to parents about pupil behaviour – templates

### First behaviour letter

Dear parent,

Recently, your child, \_\_\_\_\_, has not been behaving as well in school as they could.

It is important that your child understands the need to follow our pupil code of conduct, and I would appreciate it if you could discuss their behaviour with them.

If your child's behaviour does not improve, I will contact you again and suggest that we meet to discuss how we can work together. However, at this stage I am confident that a reminder of how to behave appropriately will be sufficient.

Yours sincerely,

Class teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class teacher signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Behaviour letter – return slip

Please return this slip to school to confirm you have received this letter. Thank you.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Second behaviour letter

Dear parent,

Following my previous letter regarding the behaviour of \_\_\_\_\_, I am sorry to say that they are still struggling to adhere to our pupil code of conduct.

I would appreciate it if you could arrange to meet me after school so we can discuss a way forward.

Yours sincerely,

Class teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class teacher signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Third behaviour letter

Dear parent,

I am sorry to report that, despite meeting and creating a behaviour contract, \_\_\_\_\_, has continued to misbehave.

\_\_\_\_\_ would now benefit from a structured approach to help improve their behaviour in school.

I would be grateful if you could attend a meeting with the headteacher, the special educational needs co-ordinator and myself, to discuss how we can best support your child in improving their behaviour.

*Insert details of the meeting time, date and location, as necessary, or how to contact the school to arrange the meeting.*

Yours sincerely,

Class teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class teacher signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

