

CANTRELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



Behaviour Policy

September 2021

Every Child Matters

At Cantrell, our aim is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person. Improving outcomes for all children and young people underpins all our work.

The outcomes are mutually reinforcing. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged; and the evidence shows clearly that educational achievement is the most effective route out of poverty.

Keeping the outcomes in mind at all times helps us all to focus on what they mean in practice and how progress towards them will be measured.

1 Aims and Expectations

1.1 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 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 where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

1.2 The school has a number of school rules, including the wearing of school uniform, but the primary aim of the behaviour policy is not a system to enforce rules. It is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. This policy supports the school community in aiming to allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way.

1.3 The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others.

1.4 We treat all children fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way.

1.5 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.

1.6 The school rewards good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation and enhances learning. This policy is designed to promote good behaviour, rather than merely deter anti-social behaviour.

2 Rewards and Sanctions

2.1 We praise and reward children for good behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Teachers congratulate children.
- Staff give out stickers to reward positive behaviour or attitude towards their learning.
- Children are encouraged to share achievements and good work with the Headteacher.
- Staff also give table or class points to instil a collaborative, team approach.
- Foundation staff use smiley face charts. Pupils collect 10 smiley faces and they receive a reward.
- Each week we nominate a child from each class to be “Writer Of The Week” or “Mathematician Of The Week”, when they are presented with a certificate and invited to share their work with the Headteacher.
- Class/year group successes are shared publically through the weekly newsletter.
- We display children’s work in the classroom, in public areas around school and in the school.
- Each week children in FS2, KS1 and KS2 are chosen for good behaviour or achievements in assembly.
- All classes have an opportunity to lead a class assembly where they are able to show examples of their best work.
- Children receive post cards at home from the Headteacher for excellent work or behaviour shown in school.

2.2 The school acknowledges all the efforts and achievements of children, both in and out of school e.g. through Twitter, Facebook and YouTube school pages.

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

- We expect children to listen carefully to instructions in lessons. If they do not do so, we ask them either to move to a place nearer the teacher, or to sit on their own.
- We expect children to try their best in all activities. If they do not do so, we may ask them to redo a task.
- If a child is disruptive in class, the teacher reprimands him or her. If a child misbehaves repeatedly, we isolate the child from the rest of the class until s/he calms down, and is in a position to work sensibly again with others.
- The safety of the children is paramount in all situations. If a child’s behaviour endangers the safety of others, the class teacher stops the activity and prevents the child from taking part for the rest of that session.
- If a child threatens, hurts or bullies another pupil, the class teacher records the incident and the child is punished. If a child repeatedly acts in a way that disrupts or upsets

others, the school contacts the child's parents and seeks an appointment in order to discuss the situation, with a view to improving the behaviour of the child. Any such incident is recorded in the appropriate file.

2.4 Every class teacher discusses the school rules with their class, also covering SEAL/PSHE activities relating to "Rights and Responsibilities". In this way, every child in the school knows the standard of behaviour that we expect in our school. If there are incidents of anti-social behaviour, the class teacher may discuss these with the whole class during 'circle time' or 'class discussions'.

2.5 The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to stop 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.

3 Use of reasonable force

3.1 Teachers in our school do not hit, push or slap children. 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. All members of staff are aware of the regulations regarding the use of force by teachers, as set out in Department for Education 'Use of reasonable force'; Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013;

3.2 Key points

- School staff have a power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action.
- Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.
- Senior school leaders support staff when they use this power.

3.3 What is reasonable force?

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used to either control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
4. As mentioned above, we would only use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.

5. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

6. Staff always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

3.4 Who can use reasonable force?

- All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.
- This power applies to any member of staff at our school. It can also apply to people who the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school-organised visit.

3.5 When can reasonable force be used?

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- In our school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.

3.6 Schools can use reasonable force to:

- Remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so.
- Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit.
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others.
- Prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground.
- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

3.7 We do not:

- Use force as a punishment.

3.8 Telling parents when force has been used on their child

- We always speak to parents about serious incidents involving the use of force and consider how best to record such serious incidents. In deciding what is a serious incident, teachers use their professional judgement and consider the:
 - Pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident.
 - Degree of force used.
 - Effect on the pupil or member of staff.
 - The child's age.

3.9 Staff training

- All staff have been trained in the use of de-escalation techniques and selected staff have been trained to use positive handling, in line with L.A. guidance.

4 The Role of the Class Teacher

4.1 It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that the school rules are adhered to in their class, and that their class behaves in a responsible manner.

4.2 The class teachers in our school have high expectations of the children in terms of behaviour, and they strive to ensure that all children work to the best of their ability.

4.3 The class teacher treats each child fairly and enforces the classroom code consistently. The teacher treats all children in their class with respect and understanding.

4.4 If a child misbehaves repeatedly in class, the class teacher keeps a record of all such incidents. In the first instance, the class teacher deals with incidents him/herself in the normal manner. However, if misbehaviour continues, the class teacher seeks help and advice from the Headteacher.

4.5 If there is a prejudice-related incident, it is the class teacher's responsibility to record what has taken place (on SIMS) and report it to a senior member of staff, who will decide on the response.

4.6 The class teacher liaises with external agencies, as necessary, to support and guide the progress of each child. The class teacher may, for example, discuss the needs of a child with the LA behaviour support service/MALT targeted services.

4.7 The class teacher reports to parents about the progress of each child in their class, in line with the whole-school policy. The class teacher may also contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of a child.

5 The Role of the Headteacher

5.1 It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, to 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 Headteacher to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children in the school.

5.2 The Headteacher supports the staff by implementing the policy, by setting the standards of behaviour, and by supporting staff in the implementation of the policy.

5.3 The Headteacher keeps records of all reported serious incidents of misbehaviour.

5.4 The Headteacher 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 Headteacher may permanently exclude a child. Both these actions are only taken after the school governors have been notified.

6 The Role of Parents

6.1 The school works collaboratively with parents, so children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school.

6.2 We explain the school rules in the school prospectus, and we expect parents to read these and support them.

6.3 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.

6.4 If the school has to use reasonable sanctions to punish 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.

7 The Role of Governors

7.1 The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on standards of discipline and behaviour, and of reviewing their effectiveness. The governors support the Headteacher in carrying out these guidelines.

7.2 The Headteacher has the day-to-day authority to implement the school behaviour and discipline policy, but governors may give advice to the Headteacher about particular disciplinary issues. The Headteacher must consider this when making decisions about matters of behaviour.

8 Fixed-term and permanent exclusions

8.1 Only the Headteacher (or the acting Headteacher) has the power to exclude a pupil from school. The Headteacher may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. The Headteacher may also exclude a pupil permanently. It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion, if the circumstances warrant this.

8.2 If the Headteacher excludes a pupil, s/he informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. At the same time, the Headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the governing body. The school informs the parents how to make any such appeal.

8.3 The Headteacher informs the LA and the governing body about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term.

8.4 The governing body itself cannot either exclude a pupil or extend the exclusion period made by the Headteacher.

8.5 The governing body has a discipline committee, which is made up of between three and five members. This committee considers any exclusion appeals on behalf of the governors.

8.6 When an appeals panel meets to consider 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.

8.7 If the governors' appeals panel decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the Headteacher must comply with this ruling.

9 Monitoring

9.1 The Headteacher monitors the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. S/he also reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements.

9.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupil who is excluded for a fixed-term, or who is permanently excluded.

9.3 It is the responsibility of the governing body to monitor the rate of suspensions and exclusions, and to ensure that the school policy is administered fairly and consistently.

10 Review

10.1 The governing body reviews this policy every two years. They governors 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.

Signed: Jacquie Ellis

To be reviewed September 2021