



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST

St Mary's Academy Trust

Behaviour Policy

Date agreed by Board:

Date to be reviewed:

Introduction

Legislation requires that a statement of principles promoting good behaviour be provided by the Trust Board of Trustees.

These principles, set out below, will underpin each individual school's behaviour policy, which will define the roles, responsibilities and practice in this area. Establishment and implementation of the policy lies with the Headteacher of each of the Trust's schools. Each school is required to have their own behaviour policy based on the needs and context of the individual school and the children in their care. Each school's behavior policy must go through consultation with pupils, staff, parents and their Local Governing Body and be made available on the school's website.

The principles are intended to support the schools' values by promoting caring and purposeful communities whose members feel valued and supported, and where courtesy and mutual respect are expected from everyone.

Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires governing bodies to have regard to the statutory guidance from the Secretary of State for Education in making and reviewing the written statement. This document has been developed taking this guidance into account.

Aims

Each school's individual behaviour policy should be based upon the following aims:

- Teach respect for individuals and the understanding that we are all different
- Ensure a consistent, positive approach to behaviour management across school and at all times
- Provide children and staff with an environment that is suitable for learning
- Ensure the emotional, social and learning needs of individuals are addressed appropriately
- Establish clear procedures for dealing with and managing unacceptable behaviour
- Empower pupils so that they are able to self-manage their behaviour
- Praise and reward good work, behaviour and attitudes
- Encourage the active and early involvement of parents in supporting positive behaviour
- Be aware that discipline in schools must respect children's human dignity
- Ensure that good behaviour is modelled by all adults
- Ensure that all stakeholders take pride in the Trust, their school, their class, their work, their environment and each other

Principles

Each school's individual behaviour policy should be based upon the principles set out below. The behaviour policy should be written to fulfill the Trust Board of Trustees and Local Governors' duty of care to pupils and employees.

- The school's behaviour policy should make clear the rights and responsibilities of all the school community – pupils, staff, parents and Governors. The policy's framework of rules, rewards and sanctions should be clear to all those involved.
- In developing strategies for the management of behaviour in school, the policy should make use of both rewards and sanctions and establish a climate where praise and encouragement far outweigh the frequency of punishment and admonition. Rewards should be used to demonstrate that good behaviour is valued by the whole school community and to encourage similar behaviour

in others. Sanctions should be used to demonstrate that misbehaviour is not acceptable; to express the disapproval of the school community and to deter other pupils from similar behaviour. In most cases, sanctions should be applied to individuals not groups.

- In support of the Trust and schools' value of mutual respect, the policy should support restorative justice; repairing harm done to relationships and people and to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions.
- The policy should include a clear, structured framework that allows all staff to treat similar behaviour in a consistent manner. It should also include provision for an appeal process against a sanction where a pupil or parent believes the school has exercised its disciplinary authority unreasonably.
- The Trustees expect the school's behaviour policy to be in accordance with their responsibilities under equality legislation: for example, by making reasonable adjustments in its application to vulnerable pupils. Each individual schools' policy will need to balance both collective and individual needs. The application of rewards and sanctions should have regard to the individual situation and the individual pupil. The school is expected to exercise discretion and sensitivity in their use (1). However, different application of the school's policy should be used sparingly and rarely for behaviours that carry a risk to others. Where possible, the school should identify such pupils in advance and plan how the school's disciplinary framework will be applied to each of these pupils. Where rewards or sanctions are applied differently because of individual circumstances then, where appropriate, these adaptations may be explained to other pupils.
- The school's behaviour policy must support the school's commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying, as well as promoting equality of opportunity, the welfare of pupils and good relations across the whole school community.
- The school's behaviour policy should include procedures to measure its effective communication, its consistent application, and the community's perception of it.

Internal, Fixed Term External and Permanent Exclusions

Any external exclusions must be approved by the CEO of St. Mary's Academy Trust in advance of the exclusion. The Trust Board should be informed of any external fixed or permanent exclusions through the CEO.

The following types of behaviour may result in an internal and/or external exclusion:

- A serious attack on another pupil or a member of staff
- Persistently disruptive behaviour which negatively impacts on the learning of others
- Bringing into school an offensive weapon, drugs, alcohol, matches or a lighter.

The length of the exclusion is at the discretion of the school, but will operate within DfE guidelines.

For further details, refer to the SMAT Exclusions Policy.

Positive Handling

Physical force should only be used within the strict safety guidelines. Each school must have a positive handling policy which clearly establishes these guidelines. All staff are required to be familiar with the contents of this policy and to abide by it at all times.

Review

This Trust behaviour policy which outlines the behaviour principles and the resulting individual schools' behaviour policies will be reviewed **every three years** and consultations sought if any changes are required.

- (1) For example, vulnerable pupils — such as those with special educational needs, physical or mental health needs, migrant and refugee pupils and looked-after children — can experience particular difficulties with behaviour (for example, related to medical conditions, lack of understanding or trauma) and may need behavioural support. The needs of any individual pupils should be addressed in their School Focused Plan in accordance with the St. Mary's Academy Trust's SEND policy. In addition, the school will need to take account of their individual needs and circumstances when applying the school's behaviour policy — for example, by making adjustments to the framework of rewards and sanctions — to make the policy effective and avoid a potentially disproportionate impact of the school's disciplinary framework on vulnerable pupils.

Annex to Behaviour Policy

COVID-19 changes to St. Mary's Academy Trust Behaviour Policy

There have been significant changes within our schools in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. While the majority of our children remain at home, schools are commencing a phased return of pupils. The Department for Education has administered guidance for schools to follow to ensure the safety of pupils, families and staff at this time.

In light of the need for children to behave differently in order to implement this guidance and to follow specific rules on their return to school during the Covid-19 epidemic, each school within St. Mary's Academy Trust must review their Behaviour Policy to outline specific changes to guidance that pupils will have to follow.

Despite the changes, the principles of St. Mary's Academy Trust's Behaviour Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first**. Our guiding principle when making any changes or adjustments to policy is to aim to keep all of our children, families and staff safe and place their wellbeing at the forefront of everything we do.

Each school within St. Mary's Academy Trust must add an annex to their current Behaviour Policy to include any necessary changes, including:

- Behaviour Expectations
- School Routines and Procedures
- Hygiene and Health Expectations
- Mental Health and Emotional and Spiritual Support

These amendments will need to go through consultation with the school's Local Governing Body and be communicated to pupils, parents and staff.