

Gillespie Primary School



Governor Statement of General Behaviour Principles October 2024

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This statement has been drawn up in accordance with Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE guidance for Governing bodies.

The purpose of this Statement is to provide guidance to the Headteacher in drawing up the school's Behaviour Policy so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of governors, staff and parents for the children in Gillespie primary school as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters. It is intended to help members of staff to be aware of and understand their powers in respect of discipline and sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident they have the Governor's support when following this guidance.

This is a statement of principles not practice; it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to draw up the school's behaviour policy taking into account these principles when formulating it. The Headteacher is also asked to take account of the relevant DfE guidance including guidance in the DfE publication Behaviour and Discipline in schools: a guide for head teachers and school staff (January 2016)

Principles:

The Governors believe strongly that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enables (a) all its children to make the best possible progress in all aspects of their school life and work and (b) all staff be able to teach and promote good learning without undue interruption or harassment.

All children and staff have the right to feel happy and safe at all times in school. There should be mutual respect between staff and children and all adults.

All members of the school community should be free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act 2010) including incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence. To this end the school must have a clear and comprehensive anti-bullying policy that is known and understood by all, consistently applied, monitored and where appropriate, incidents recorded.

The School Rules developed with the children and known to parents should be clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. They should set out expected standards of behaviour, should be displayed in all classrooms and other, relevant parts of the school and shared with and explained to all children. The Governors expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff and regularly monitored for their effectiveness.

Governors would like to see rewards consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere. These should be made clear in the Behaviour Policy and monitored for effectiveness.

The Governors expect the Headteacher to use discretion in the use of sanctions and to balance the needs and rights of all children and of staff and parents when considering measures to manage unacceptable /challenging behaviour
For those children with special educational needs and disabilities, physical or mental health needs, and looked after children who may experience particular difficulties

with behaviour; the school will seek to ensure that they receive behavioural support according to their needs. However, when making decisions the school must balance the needs of the individual and those of the school community and where pupil behaviour places others at risk, the safety of the pupil body, as a whole is paramount.

Sanctions for unacceptable behaviour should be known, understood, and consistently applied by all staff. The full range of sanctions should be clearly described in the Behaviour Policy so that children, staff and parents can understand how and when these are applied. Exclusions must be used only as a very last resort.

The Behaviour Policy should address the power to discipline beyond the school gate for all non-criminal inappropriate behaviour and bullying which occurs anywhere off the school premises and which is witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the school. The same goes for misbehaviour at any time, which could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public, or could adversely affect the reputation of the school. The Governors must be satisfied, in all situations arising, that the measures proposed by the Headteacher are lawful and that staff and children know that sanctions can be applied in these circumstances.

School staff may search pupils with their permission for any item that is banned by the school rules. The school should make clear in the Behaviour Policy and to parents what items are banned and the possible consequences of a child possessing them. The headteacher, and staff authorised by the headteacher, have the power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they suspect a pupil has items banned by the school and other legally prohibited items. The school will not normally conduct a 'without consent search' but will contact the child's parents instead. The use of this power will therefore be an absolute last resort.

All school staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property. The Behaviour Policy should give details of appropriate and correct use of reasonable force it should state that the headteacher must be informed of any incident that has led to the use of reasonable force, which should be recorded.

The Behaviour Policy should set out the disciplinary action that will be taken against children who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff and the pastoral support that school staff should expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers.

The Behaviour Policy should also say when a multi-agency assessment should be considered for pupils displaying continuous disruptive behaviour.

The Safeguarding Committee on behalf of the full Governing Body adopted this statement in 2014, reviewed annually.