



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Ryhope.
Behaviour & De-escalation and Physical Intervention Policy
September 2024

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies & documents:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection policies.
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Exclusion & Suspension Policy

Aims:

The behaviour policy for our school reflects our school vision:

Christ is the Centre of St. Patrick's School, where we live, love and learn together

We aim to encourage:

- The development of a caring attitude towards all children and adults concerned with the school.
- Respect for other people's property, the school and the local surroundings.
- Care and respect should be an expected standard of behaviour by all children in the school.

We believe that everyone has a responsibility to promote positive behaviour and that relationships built on mutual trust and consideration for others are to be encouraged. We aim to build pupils' self confidence, self esteem and social competence in our efforts to encourage good behaviour.

Good practice will include:

- Good relationships with mutual respect between teachers and pupils.
- Teachers' high expectations of their pupils' academic and social abilities.
- Curriculum and teaching methods well matched to pupils' needs.
- The nurturing of pupils' growing maturity and self esteem.

In the classroom and around the school:

The rules for children both in the classroom and around school should be simple and straightforward. Every child needs to be encouraged to look their best, sound their best and do their best.

This means that children should:

- Understand other people's point of view.
- Be cooperative in class and make it possible for everyone to learn and the teacher to teach.

- Move gently and quietly about school.
- Speak politely to everyone, including peers.
- Keep the school clean and tidy.

School grounds and Premises

Everyone in school is responsible for the care of the school premises. Children and Staff are encouraged to feel a sense of ownership for the school and its environment. The management of the building seeks to

- *Display children's work to a high standard
- *Keep the building clean and tidy.
- *Grounds to be well maintained and free from litter
- *Maintain a Non-Smoking environment

Implementation:

Regular discussions between teacher and class are extremely important. It may be that a certain amount of time every week is spent discussing behaviour (not necessarily when someone has misbehaved). It may be part of P.S.H.E. etc. Staff have an important role to play in encouraging good behaviour. Children need to be supervised when moving around school. In this respect staff should:

- Arrive before the class and begin on time.
- Escort classes around the school.
- Make mention of behaviour when reporting to parents.

Sanctions:

Children who fail to show a caring attitude, who misbehave in class or who show lack of respect must realise that the school does not accept or tolerate such behaviour. For this reason a series of well defined sanctions exists:

1. In the first instance, problems are dealt with by the class teacher. Each class teacher draws up a class rules (which include thinking about positives behaviours) with the class at the beginning of the academic year. If a child does not adhere to this plan then sanctions may include:
 - Removal of privileges.
 - Withdrawal from 'treats'.
 - Removal of freedom at break times.
2. If such measures fail to work and behaviour remains unacceptable, the child should be referred to the Head Teacher or Head of School or Senior Teacher. The Head/Head of School/Senior Teacher will report back to the class teacher on action taken.
3. The next step is to contact parents. Children should be aware that this is going to happen. Parents will be invited into school to discuss the problem. Again the Head Teacher will report back to the class teacher on the action taken.
4. If parents perceive the problem to be too large for them, then outside agencies may become involved.
5. In an extreme case, suspension or exclusion may be necessary. Only the Head Teacher, may exclude pupils from school.

Exclusions & Suspensions

Short Term Suspensions

A “**suspension**” is defined as the temporary removal of a pupil from the school for behaviour management purposes. A pupil may be suspended for one or more fixed periods, up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year. A suspension does not have to be for a continuous period. Children who persist in displaying unacceptable behaviour will risk being suspended from school for a set period of time following DfE (2022) and LA guidance. If following strategies such as restorative justice; mediation; internal exclusion; nurture unit work; extra support in classes etc. does not improve the behaviour of any given pupil then a fixed period of suspension will be used by the head teacher, in line with LA procedures and statutory requirements.

Exclusions

An “**exclusion**” is defined as the permanent removal of a pupil from the school, in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school’s Behaviour Policy, and where as a school we have exhausted all available strategies in dealing with the child and allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupils or staff in the school.

Serious breaches of the school’s behaviour policy will carry the risk of immediate exclusion and the head teacher will also have to consider whether or not to inform other agencies such as the police and social services.

Decisions around Exclusions and Suspensions will be made in line with the Schools Exclusion & Suspension Policy

Bullying:

St. Patrick’s recognises the seriousness of bullying and racial harassment. Whenever incidents arise immediate action will be taken.

We discuss the topic of bullying on many occasions with our pupils to make sure they fully understand what steps they would need to take if they thought they were being bullied.

People may bully others because of varying perceived differences:

- sexism, racism, religion or belief, academic ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, homophobia, transphobic bullying, disability, perceived characteristic (e.g. hair colour or weight) or because of an associate (family member or friend). All instances of bullying will be challenged and such behaviours will not be tolerated.

Please see anti bullying policy.

What the children expect from us:

Consistency

Clear guidelines

Respect

Act as positive role models for children

Fairness

Reasons

Boundaries
Understanding
Listened to
Cared for

What we expect from the children:

Good manners/courtesy to adults and each other.
Respect for property.
Appreciation for other people's feelings.
To be in the right place at the right time.
Obedience- to instructions/rules.
Not to be answered back.
Conduct themselves in a civilised manner.
Concentrate in class on work set- give their best.
Good behaviour
Respect for adults.
Tolerance.
That they WALK around school.
No fighting/bullying.
Compliance with code of dress.
That they answer all staff politely and courteously.
Developing self discipline and self control.
Respect and care for themselves and others.
Truthfulness
Take responsibility for their own actions and acknowledge when they are wrong.
LOOK THEIR BEST, SOUND THEIR BEST, DO THEIR BEST.

Playtimes/ Dinnertimes

The Lunchtime staff are responsible for pupil behaviour in the first instance. Unacceptable behaviour should be reported firstly to Lunchtime Supervisors. Senior members of staff will support staff as and when necessary. Pupils who are having a problem with their behaviour may be sent or choose to come into school for a "cooling off" period supervised by a Senior Member of Staff. Persistent bad behaviour may lead to suspension from school at lunchtimes following discussion with parents and in line with DFES and LA guidelines. Staff will support good behaviour at playtimes\dinner times by being prompt to collect children at lining up times and being available in cloakroom at the end of the day.

Parental involvement:

Establishing a partnership between home and school in order to encourage positive behaviour is one of our priorities. Parents are welcomed and indeed encouraged to become involved in school life as this involvement acts as a model for active citizenship and as such promotes positive pupil behaviour.

Malicious Allegations against staff

Disciplinary action may be taken against children who are found to have made malicious accusations against staff. This offence may lead to a fixed term suspension followed by a rigorous risk assessment undertaken with the involvement of staff, parents/carers and child. The assessment will then be shared with the Local Governing Body – Pupil Discipline Committee for approval before any child is permitted to return to the classroom following such a serious incident.

Positive Handling:

A small number of children may from time to time have difficulty in restraining themselves physically when they become angry and upset. This can result in them placing themselves and others at risk of serious injury.

Senior Leaders at St. Patrick's have undertaken accredited De-escalation & Physical Intervention training in positive handling strategies.

Staff at this school are trained to look after the pupils in their care. Staff have a duty to intervene in order to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others. There may also be situations in which a child seriously disrupts good order in the school or causes damage to property. If a member of staff ever needs to intervene physically they will follow the following De-escalation & Physical Intervention techniques

Help Protocols

The expectation at this school is that all staff should support one another. This means that staff always offer help and always accept it. Help does not always mean taking over. It may mean just staying around in case you are needed, getting somebody else or looking after somebody else's group. Supporting a colleague does not only mean agreeing with their suggestions and offering sympathy when things go wrong. Real support sometimes means acting as a critical friend to help colleagues become aware of possible alternative strategies. Good communication is necessary so that colleagues avoid confusion when help is offered and accepted. They need to agree scripts so that all parties understand what sort of assistance is required and what is available.

Well Chosen Words

A well-chosen word can sometimes avert an escalating crisis. When pupils are becoming angry there is no point in getting into an argument. Telling people to calm down can actually wind them up. Pointing out what they have done wrong can make things worse. The only purpose in communicating with an angry person is to prevent further escalation. It is better to say nothing and take time to choose your words carefully than to say the wrong thing and provoke a further escalation.

The Last Resort Principal

At St. Patrick's school we only use physical restraint when there is no realistic alternative. This does not mean that we always expect people to methodically work

their way through a series of failing strategies, before attempting an intervention in which they have some confidence. Nor does it mean always waiting until the danger is imminent, by which time the prospect of safely managing it may be significantly reduced.

It does mean that we expect staff to conduct a risk assessment and choose the safest alternative. It also means that we expect staff to experiment and think creatively about any alternatives to physical intervention which may be effective.

Use of reasonable force

At St. Patrick's we follow the advice given in the following guidance:

DFE Use of reasonable force advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

Proactive Physical Interventions

It is sometimes reasonable to use physical controls to prevent extreme behaviour from becoming dangerous provided that it is either an agreed part of a Positive Handling Plan or a response to an unplanned emergency crisis situation. Examples of this are where a pupil has shown ritual patterns of behaviour, which in the past have led to the child becoming more distressed and violent. In such circumstances it may be reasonable to withdraw the child to a safer place when the pattern of behaviour begins, rather than wait until the child is distressed and out of control. The paramount consideration is that the action is taken in the interest of the child and that it reduces, rather than increases, risk.

Physical restraint

Staff at St. Patrick's follow the most up to date guidance in the event of having to use reasonable force to restrain a child. (There are also members of staff trained in Positive Handling restraint techniques to ensure pupils and staff are safe at all times.) DFE Use of reasonable force advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

Power to search pupils

The Headteacher and Governing Body follow the most up to date Government advice on searching pupils: DFE Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for

headteachers, school staff and governing bodies January 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

Reasonable and Proportionate

When using physical intervention, staff response to extreme behaviour should be reasonable and proportionate. People should not react in anger. If they feel they are becoming angry they should consider withdrawing to allow someone else to deal with the situation. Where staff act in good faith, and their actions are reasonable and proportionate, they will be supported.

When physical controls are considered staff should think about the answers to the following questions:

- How is this in the best interest of the pupil?
- Why is a less intrusive intervention not preferable?
- Why do we have to act now?
- Why am I the best person to be doing this?
- Why is this absolutely necessary?

If staff can answer these questions it is more likely that a physical intervention will be judged to be reasonable and proportionate.

Unreasonable use of Force

It is not reasonable to use force simply to enforce compliance in circumstances where there is no risk. Nor is it reasonable to use any more force than is necessary to achieve a reduction in risk. Under no circumstances should pain be deliberately inflicted or should pupils be deliberately subjected to undignified or humiliating treatment (this should not be confused with the unavoidable discomfort associated with some approved techniques for disengaging from assaults such as bites and grabs). Other than as a one-off emergency measure to protect health and safety, force should never be used to keep a pupil secluded. Seclusion is only lawful by specific court order and cannot become part of a planned strategy at this school.

Positive Handling Plans

Risk management is regarded as an integral part of behaviour management planning. All pupils who have been identified as presenting a risk should have a Positive Handling Plan. The plan details any strategies which have been found to be effective for that individual, along with any particular responses which are not recommended. If particular physical techniques have been found to be effective they should be named, along with alerts to any which have proved ineffective or which caused problems in the past. Positive Handling Plans should be considered alongside the Statement and any other planning documents which relate to the pupil. They

should take account of age, sex, level of physical, emotional and intellectual development, special need and social context. Positive Handling Plans should result from multi-professional collaboration and be included in a Pastoral Support Plan or IEP.

Responding to Unforeseen Emergencies

Even the best planning systems cannot cover every eventuality and the school recognises that there are unforeseen or emergency situations in which staff have to think on their feet. It is not enough to thoughtlessly apply rules without thinking through the likely consequences. The key principles are that any physical intervention should be:

- in the best interest of the child;
- reasonable and proportionate;
- intended to reduce risk;
- the least intrusive and restrictive of those options available which are likely to be effective.

Whenever a physical intervention has to be made there should be a verbal warning. Where possible, staff should always attempt to use diversion or diffusion in preference to physical interventions. They should only use the techniques and methods approved for use in this school. In general, if staff act in good faith and their actions are reasonable and proportionate, they will be supported.

The Post Incident Support Structure for Pupils and Staff

Following a serious incident, it is the policy of this school to offer support for all involved. People take time to recover from a serious incident. Until the incident has subsided the only priority is to reduce risk and calm the situation down. Staff should avoid saying or doing anything which could inflame the situation during the recovery phase. Immediate action should be taken to ensure medical help is sought if there are any injuries which require more than basic first aid. All injuries should be reported and recorded using the school's systems. It is important to note that injury in itself is not evidence of malpractice. Even when staff attempt to do everything right, things can go wrong. Part of the post incident support for staff may involve a reminder of this, as people tend to blame themselves when things go wrong. Time needs to be found to repair relationships. When careful steps are taken to repair relationships, a serious incident does not necessarily result in long term damage. This is an opportunity for learning for all concerned. Time needs to be given to following up incidents so that pupils have an opportunity to express their feelings, suggest alternative courses of action for the future and appreciate other people's perspective. When time and effort are put into a post incident support structure the outcome of a serious incident can be learning, growth and strengthened relationships.

Complaints

It is not uncommon for pupils to make allegations of inappropriate or excessive use of force following an incident. The school has a formal Complaints Procedure. Pupils should be reminded of the procedure and encouraged to use the appropriate channels. The complaints policy applies equally to staff. We are an open school and promote transparent policy and practice in order to protect the interests of staff and pupils alike. Any staff concerns regarding the welfare of children should be taken to the designated safeguarding lead. Any safety concerns should be reported to the designated person for Health and Safety.

Recording

Whenever reasonable, proportionate and necessary force is used the incident must be recorded using the approved bound record book. The bound book is kept in the Head Teacher's office. All staff involved in an incident should contribute to the record which should be completed within 24 hours.

Staff should:

- Read through the school recording form carefully
- Take time to think about what actually happened and try to explain it clearly- Give the facts of the incident.
- Complete all names in full.
- Sign and date all forms.

Bear in mind these records will be retained and cannot be altered. They will be kept for many years and could form part of an investigation at some time in the future.

Serious Incident Reports should not be completed until the individuals concerned have recovered from the immediate effects of the incident. They should not be rushed. A record is written into the bound Book.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Head teacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and instigate further action as required. The school incident log is open to external monitoring and evaluation.

Follow Up

Following an incident, consideration may be given to conducting a further risk assessment, reviewing the Positive Handling Plan, behaviour management policy or this positive handling policy. Any further action in relation to a member of staff, or an individual pupil, will follow the appropriate procedures.

Monitoring Policy

The Senior Management team will monitor behaviour on a daily and weekly basis. Serious incidents are recorded in the bound book. The number and nature of serious incidences are reported to governing body on a termly basis. Appropriate

information will be shared with colleagues from other educational establishments when there is transition of pupils.

Dinnertime supervisor monitors the dinnertime behaviour and reports back to Head teacher/ Head of School/ Deputy Head any concerns.

Review of Policy

The Behaviour and De-escalation and Physical Intervention Policy will be reviewed in line with associated policies and the acknowledgement of the school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and in respect of pupils with SEN, to ensure that links are developed and that their aims support each other.

Next Review Date September 2025