



ST. MARY'S  
ACADEMY TRUST

# St Mary's Academy Trust

## Behaviour Policy

**Date agreed by Board:** October 2023

**Date to be reviewed:** October 2024

## **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 behaviour policy must go through consultation with pupils, staff, parents, their Local Governing Body and the Trust Board of Trustees 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
- Provide children and staff with an environment in which they feel safe
- Ensure the emotional, social and learning needs of individuals are addressed appropriately
- Establish clear procedures for dealing with and managing unacceptable behaviour
- Ensure that procedures for dealing with unacceptable behaviour i.e. peer to peer abuse, bullying and inappropriate use of language are recorded and shared with the appropriate bodies
- Empower pupils so that they are able to self-manage their behaviour
- Empower pupils to feel confident to share their concerns
- Praise and reward good behaviour, attitudes and work
- 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 fulfil 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 stakeholders in 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 compassion, 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 school's 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, these adaptations may be explained to other pupils/parents where appropriate.
- 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 schools behaviour policy must support any changes made in other statutory documents e.g. Keeping children Safe in Education 2023
- The school's behaviour policy should include procedures to measure its effective communication, its consistent application, and the community's perception of it.

### **Suspension and Permanent Exclusions**

Any suspensions must be approved by the CEO of St. Mary's Academy Trust in advance of the suspension. The Trust Board should be informed of any suspensions or permanent exclusions through the CEO retrospectively at the next meeting.

The following types of behaviour may result in a suspension :

- 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 suspension is at the discretion of the school, with the approval of the Trust CEO, 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 **annually** 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 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