



**Altarnun Primary School**

Part of Athena Learning Trust

# **Altarnun Primary School Behaviour Policy**

## **Review**

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Altarnun Primary School behaviour strategy is aimed at creating a culture with high expectations of behaviour and establishing calm, safe and supportive environments conducive to learning. Good behaviour and self-discipline leads to effective learning and helps prepare children and young people for life beyond the school gate.
- 1.2 This policy outlines the high behavioural standards the school expects from all our pupils, the support and interventions used to address poor behaviour and sets out the sanctions that will follow if this policy is not adhered to. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's exclusions and suspensions procedure, anti-bullying procedure, drugs and alcohol policy, trust-wide SEND and the school's safeguarding and child protection policy, all of which can be found on the website. This model policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees and any changes made by the school will be ratified by their local governing body.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

By setting high standards of expected behaviour, the school aims to:

- promote positive relationships that safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, creating an effective learning environment;
- maximise the quality of the learning experience for all pupils, enabling everyone to learn effectively;
- enable pupils to understand the implications of their behaviour, to control their own behaviour and most importantly, to take responsibility for their behaviour;
- ensure every member of the school community feels valued, respected and treated fairly;
- provide an ethos and environment within which everyone feels safe;
- foster discipline and mutual respect between pupils and their peers, and between staff and pupils;
- raise awareness amongst pupils to ensure that their behaviour does not put their peers or staff at an increased risk in respect of health and safety;
- raise awareness amongst pupils for the need to recognise and manage their emotions and reactions; and
- support pupils whose behaviour within the academy environment is challenging or who may find friendship and cooperation difficult.

### **3 Application of Policy**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all members of the school community. The school uses CPOMS to record behaviours which impact learning, and communicate concerns with parents directly or via Dojo. The school will apply sanctions within this policy for behaviour that takes place outside of school premises where it is reasonable to do so, for example if allegations of bullying or inappropriate online activity taking place outside of school hours are reported to the school.
- 3.2 When deciding whether it would be reasonable to impose a sanction for poor behaviour outside of the school, staff will consider:
- 3.2.1 whether the pupil is taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity, travelling to or from the school, wearing school uniform or is in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school at the time of the poor behaviour; and/or
  - 3.2.2 the severity of the misbehaviour, whether the pupil's behaviour could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, whether the behaviour poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

### **4 Roles and Responsibilities**

All members of the school community are expected to follow this policy and treat one another with dignity, kindness and respect. Roles, responsibilities and expectations of each section of the school community are set out in detail below.

#### **4.1 Governing Body**

The governors will work with the school's Principal to set the ethos and a set of core values that promote high standards of expected behaviour from pupils attending the school. Governors will monitor and evaluate the impact of the policy and will hold the Principal to account for its implementation. Governors will ensure that they receive relevant training on suspensions, exclusions, behaviour and discipline regularly.

#### **4.2 Principal**

The Principal will ensure that staff are supported and up to date with policy changes. They will ensure that lessons are well led, effectively managed and that staff regularly and effectively self-evaluate their behaviour management strategies. The Principal will monitor how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied fairly and consistently, searches are carried out lawfully and the use of removal from the classroom is used appropriately and not having a disproportionate effect on pupils sharing particular protected characteristics. The Principal will act as a source of support and guidance for staff on behaviour management strategies and discipline.

### 4.3 Staff

All staff will:

- communicate the contents of this policy to all pupils and parents to ensure that the school expectations are transparent to all pupils and parents, and that expectations of, and responses to, behaviour are consistent, fair, proportionate, and predictable. Staff will do this by regularly refreshing expectations, reteaching routines and through encouragement and support for all children;
- apply this policy fairly, consistently, proportionately, and without discrimination, taking into account SEND as well as the additional challenges that some vulnerable pupils may face;
- make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils as required;
- promote a teaching and learning ethos which encourages all pupils to attend and participate in lessons whatever their level of ability or need;
- model positive behaviour;
- not tolerate disruption to teaching, learning or school routines and take proportionate action to restore acceptable standards of behaviour;
- challenge pupils to meet the school expectations and maintain the boundaries of acceptable conduct;
- record incidents of poor behaviour using school procedures;
- provide praise, rewards and reinforce positive behaviour;
- deal with incidents of bullying, discrimination, aggression and derogatory language quickly and effectively;
- focus on de-escalation and preventative strategies rather than being solely reactive;
- consider the welfare of the whole school community and ensure that the majority of pupils' education is not jeopardised by the disruptive behaviour of a minority of pupils;
- contribute to the development of systems which support and reinforce positive behaviour;
- recognise that there may be contributory factors which affect pupil's behaviour and respond according to individual need;

- identify pupils who are experiencing difficulties in developing or sustaining appropriate behaviour and put in place general and targeted interventions to improve pupil behaviour and provide support. This could include:
  - more frequent engagement with parents;
  - home visits;
  - mentoring and coaching;
  - report cards;
  - engaging with local partners and agencies to address specific challenges;
  - consideration of whether a multi-agency assessment such as early help or review Education Health and Care Plan is required; and/or
  - designing an Individual Behaviour Plan and/or Individual Learning Plan with set targets and support strategies embedded within;
- contact parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment and about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour;
- set, mark and monitor homework and provide facilities for children to do homework in the academy if required;
- send parents an annual written report on their child's progress and arrange Parents' Evenings during which progress will be discussed; and
- engage with and attend all training and development sessions to continually improve behaviour management and learn from best practice.

#### **4.4 Parents**

Parents play an important role in ensuring good behaviour from their children. Parents are expected to:

- support the school in the application and enforcement of this policy;
- inform the school of any challenging behaviour exhibited at home, special education needs or changes in circumstances that may account for changes in their child's behaviour;
- ensure their child attends school on time, appropriately dressed, fed, rested, and equipped;

- work with the school in support of their child's learning;
- attend meetings at the school with staff to discuss their child's behaviour and adhere to any actions put in place;
- inform the school in writing of any medication their child needs to take (see the school's "Supporting children with medical needs" policy);
- support their child in homework and other opportunities for home learning;
- attend Parents' Evenings and discussions about their child's progress, if reasonably possible; and
- in the case of suspension, provide appropriate supervision for their child during the first 5 days of suspension, ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification and attend a reintegration meeting at the school with their child.

#### **4.5 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to have a positive attitude and maintain high expectations for themselves.

#### **5 Rewards**

The school believes that it is important to encourage good conduct throughout the school by celebrating and rewarding good behaviour.

#### **6 Sanctions**

6.1 Where a pupil's conduct falls below the standard which could reasonably be expected of them the first priority will be to ensure the safety of pupils and staff and to restore a calm environment. De-escalation techniques may be used to help prevent further behaviour issues arising. The school will impose sanctions (also known as 'disciplinary penalties') in response to pupil misconduct. All sanctions will be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and due consideration will be given to the pupil's age, any special educational needs or disability and any religious requirements.

6.2 The particular level of sanction will depend on the severity and regularity of the behaviour and will be proportionate in the circumstances. A response to behaviour may have various purposes including deterrence, protection and/or improvement. The school uses a range of sanctions in response to incidents of poor behaviour. These sanctions are outlined in the school's behaviour procedure.

- 6.3 School staff work in cooperation with parents to understand the reasons behind their child's behaviour and put in place a clear support strategy for modifying and addressing that behaviour. This might include the designated safeguarding lead making enquiries into circumstances outside of the school and/or having a targeted discussion with the pupil, including explaining what they did wrong, the impact of their actions, how they can do better in the future and what will happen if their behaviour fails to improve. The school recognises the importance of effective home-school communication and will endeavour to communicate with parents, and the Virtual School Head for looked after children, regarding students' behaviour when necessary.
- 6.4 The school will consider whether the behaviour under review gives cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, staff will follow the school's safeguarding policy. They will also consider whether continuing disruptive behaviour might be the result of unmet educational or other needs. If staff reasonably believe this to be the case they will consider whether a multi-agency assessment is necessary.
- 6.5 Under no circumstances will illegal or inappropriate items be tolerated in the school, and all pupils will respect and look after the school premises and environment. The following behaviour is regarded as completely unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions and possibly in suspension or exclusion, depending on the circumstances:
- verbal abuse to staff and others;
  - verbal abuse to pupils;
  - physical abuse to/attack on staff;
  - physical abuse to/attack on pupils;
  - any form of bullying (to the extent not covered above);
  - indecent behaviour;
  - damage to property;
  - gambling on school property;
  - recording or taking images of pupils or staff without their express consent;
  - consuming, carrying, supplying or misusing of illegal drugs and alcohol and other substances including "legal highs";
  - carrying, supplying or taking prescription drugs or non-prescription drugs without lawful reason;

- theft;
- serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff;
- sexual abuse or assault;
- carrying an offensive weapon;
- arson;
- unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour;
- malicious allegations against staff;
- racist, sexist, homophobic or other forms of discriminatory behaviour;
- persistent truancy/lateness;
- possession of items prohibited under the school rules.

6.6 Removal from the classroom for more than a short period will occur in response to serious misbehaviour, only when necessary and for as long as is necessary, and once other behavioural strategies in the classroom have been attempted, unless the behaviour is so extreme as to warrant immediate removal. Reasons for removal are:

- to maintain the safety of all pupils and to restore stability following an unreasonably high level of disruption;
- to enable disruptive pupils to be taken to a place where education can be continued in a managed environment; and
- to allow the pupil to regain calm in a safe space.

During the period of removal the pupil will receive continual, supervised education in a suitable environment. Staff will consider whether any assessment of underlying factors of disruptive behaviour is needed. Parents should be informed on the same day if their child has been removed from the classroom and a reintegration strategy will be discussed with the pupil and parents which facilitates reflection by the pupil, sets out any support to be put in place for the pupil to avoid such behaviour in the future, sets out clear behavioural expectations and the consequences of failing to comply.

6.7 Permanent exclusion will only be used as a sanction of last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of this behaviour policy and where allowing the pupil to remain in the school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil

or others in the school. The school will follow the Suspension and Exclusions Procedure and the DfE statutory guidance on suspensions and exclusions when taking a decision to suspend or exclude.

## **7 Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities**

7.1 In the context of this policy, a child is considered to have SEND if he or she:

- has difficulties in learning which are significantly greater than the majority of other pupils of the same age; or
- has a disability which prevents or limits them from accessing the curriculum; or
- has behavioural, emotional or social difficulties which impact adversely on their learning and progress.

7.2 The school is aware that continuous disruptive behaviour can be a result of unmet needs. If such needs are identified, the school will do all it can to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate support. The school is conscious of its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of pupils with disabilities and will make reasonable adjustments to this policy to avoid any substantial disadvantage that a pupil may face as a consequence of their disability compared to their non-disabled peers. A reasonable adjustment that may be made would be to impose a more lenient sanction for a pupil whose behaviour is in consequence of their disability than would be imposed for a pupil exhibiting the same behaviour who does not have that disability. The school will not assume that because a pupil has SEND, it must have affected their behaviour on a particular occasion – this is a question of judgement for the school on the facts of the situation.

7.3 An Individual Behaviour Plan and/or Learning plan will be used for children with SEND whose condition causes them to display challenging behaviour and advice will be sought from external agencies where necessary to assist with putting in place appropriate support strategies, which will be monitored and reviewed. Please read the trust-wide SEND Policy and the school's SEN Information Report for more information.

7.4 The school will as far as possible, anticipate likely triggers of misbehaviour for pupils identified as having SEND and will put in place support to prevent these.

7.5 Staff training will include matters such as how certain special educational needs, disabilities, or mental health needs may at times affect a pupil's behaviour. Where relevant, engagement with experts, such as Educational Psychologists and other support staff can help to inform effective implementation of this policy.

## **8 Investigating Incidents**

- 8.1 Initial investigations of minor infractions of the policy may be carried out by a member of staff/teacher on their own. Further investigations or initial investigations of more serious offences may be carried out by two staff together. Where appropriate, pupils who have witnessed the behaviour may be asked to provide written, signed and dated statements, or may be asked to describe to staff what they saw and the member of staff will make a note of the response. Any questions raised by staff will be open and non-leading. If the police wish to question the pupil, the school will ensure that a responsible adult is present at all times and will inform the pupil's parents of what has happened as soon as possible.
- 8.2 When more than one pupil is involved in an incident and the interpretations of an event differ, then every effort will be made to try to find the truth. If this still remains unclear, then the staff members involved will use their professional judgement to come to a conclusion on the balance of probabilities.
- 8.3 In exceptional circumstances, pupils may receive a suspension pending an investigation if there is a possibility that the welfare of other pupils may be compromised by that pupil remaining in the school.

## **9 Search, seizure and confiscation**

- 9.1 If an investigation or an allegation leads to reasonable suspicion and the search of a pupil's clothes, bags and tray is deemed appropriate, a search may be carried out by The Principal or staff authorised by them. Staff will follow the latest DfE guidance on searching, screening and confiscation when conducting a search. Staff will take into consideration the age and needs of pupils being searched or screened. This includes the individual needs or learning difficulties of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and making reasonable adjustments that may be required where a pupil has a disability.
- 9.2 The Principal will oversee the practice of searching to ensure that a culture of safe, proportionate and appropriate searching is maintained, which safeguards the welfare of all pupils and staff with support from the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). The Principal will ensure that a sufficient number of staff are appropriately trained in how to lawfully and safely search a pupil who is not co-operating, so that these trained staff can support and advise other members of staff if this situation arises.
- 9.3 Staff may confiscate or seize items in the possession of pupils that pose a risk to staff or pupils, are illegal or banned by the school rules or is evidence in relation to an offence and may confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary sanction so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. Confiscation of a pupil's property will be proportionate and aimed at maintaining an environment conducive to learning and one which safeguards the rights of other pupils to be educated. Where appropriate a member of staff may retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a punishment and are

protected from liability for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items. Guidance on what to do with particular confiscated items can be found in the latest DfE guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

9.4 A teacher or someone who has lawful control of the child can search a pupil **with their consent** to look for any item banned by the school's rules. Pupils must be first asked to empty pockets and bags themselves. Before any search takes place, the member of staff conducting the search should explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how and where the search is going to take place and give them the opportunity to ask any questions. If the pupil refuses to give permission the school may impose a sanction for failing to follow a reasonable instruction.

9.5 The Principal and other members of staff authorised by them have the power to search a pupil **without the pupil's consent** if they suspect they are in possession of 'prohibited items'. The designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) should be informed of any searching incidents where the member of staff had reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil was in possession of a prohibited item or if they believe that a search has revealed a safeguarding risk without delay. Prohibited items that can be searched for without consent include:

- knives or weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- e-cigarettes, tobacco and cigarette papers;
- fireworks;
- pornographic images; or
- articles that the member of staff reasonably suspects have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause personal injury to, or damage to property of, any person (including the pupil).

A member of staff can use reasonable force to search for any prohibited items but not to search for items which are identified only in the school's rules. Before using reasonable force the member of staff should consider whether conducting the search will prevent the pupil harming themselves or others, damaging property or from causing disorder.

9.6 Any search without consent must be conducted by a member of staff of the same sex as the pupil in the presence of another member of staff. A member of staff can only carry out a search of a pupil of the opposite sex and/or without a witness present, where the

member of staff reasonably believes that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if they do not conduct the search immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

- 9.7 When conducting a search pupils must not be required to remove any clothing other than outer clothing. 'Outer clothing' [is defined as] any item of clothing that is not worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear, as well as hats, shoes, boots or scarves).
- 9.8 Strip searches (a search involving the removal of more than outer clothing) on school premises can only be carried out by police officers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes A and B. While the decision to undertake the strip search itself and its conduct are police matters, school staff retain a duty of care to the pupil(s) involved and should advocate for pupil wellbeing at all times. Before calling police into the school, staff should assess and balance the risk of a potential strip search on the pupil's mental and physical wellbeing and the risk of not recovering the suspected item. Staff should consider whether introducing the potential for a strip search through police involvement is absolutely necessary by consulting with the designated safeguarding lead and school Principal, and should always ensure that other appropriate, less invasive approaches have been exhausted. Unless there is an immediate risk of harm and where reasonably possible, staff should inform a parent of the pupil suspected of concealing an item in advance of the search, even if the parent is not acting as the appropriate adult.
- 9.9 Staff should keep a record of any searches conducted on pupils and inform parents that a search has been carried out as soon as reasonably practicable. Records should include:
- the date, time and location of the search;
  - which pupil was searched;
  - who conducted the search and any other adults or pupils present;
  - what was being searched for;
  - the reason for searching;
  - what items, if any, were found; and
  - what follow-up action was taken as a consequence of the search.
- 9.10 Staff may seize an electronic device to examine any data or files on the device if they think there is good reason to do so. These data or files may be erased before returning the item if they believe there is good reason to do this. If the member of staff conducting the search suspects they may find an indecent image of a child, the member of staff should never intentionally view the image, and must never copy, print, share,

store or save such images. When an incident might involve an indecent image of a child and/or video, the member of staff should confiscate the device, avoid looking at the device and refer the incident to the designated safeguarding lead. Staff will have regard to the UK Council for Internet Safety advice for managing incidences of sharing nudes and semi-nudes when managing these issues.

## **10 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices**

As set out in the school's rules, mobile phones and personal electronic devices must not be brought onto site under any circumstances. Where they are, staff may confiscate or seize the device in accordance with section 9 of this policy.

## **11 Use of reasonable force**

11.1 The school strives to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils. All members of staff (and anyone whom the Principal has given the responsibility to be in charge or in control of the pupils) are lawfully permitted to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.

11.2 This power extends to times when staff are lawfully in charge of pupils but are off the academy premises i.e. on a school trip. There is no definition of when it is reasonable to use force and every situation will have to be judged by the person in charge at that time. The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

11.3 Sometimes, pupils may get anxious or agitated and strategies used to help pupils calm down such as using communication skills, distraction techniques and removing triggers may not yield results. On rare occasions staff may have to use physical interventions to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or to ensure that property is not seriously damaged.

11.4 All incidents where pupils need to be held to help them to calm down will be recorded, any Individual Behaviour Plan and/or Learning Plans reviewed and parents will be informed as a matter of course.

## **12 Bullying**

12.1 The school will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff and this includes protection from bullying. The school has a separate Anti-Bullying Procedure which should be read in conjunction with this policy. Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. This can include emotional, physical, racial, sexual, verbal (direct or indirect) and cyber-bullying.

- 12.2 The school wants to make sure that all pupils feel safe in the school and are accepted into the school community. The school's ethos is one of inclusion and equality; bullying of any kind is regarded as a serious breach of this behaviour policy and will not be tolerated.
- 12.3 Bullying can be verbal or physical, by person or by electronic, on-line or written means and can be directed at both staff and pupils. The school practices a preventative strategy to reduce the chances of bullying, and the school's anti-bullying strategy is instilled in the school's curriculum, through the active development of pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills, assemblies and is embedded in daily school life. It is made very clear to pupils what is expected of them in terms of respecting their peers, members of the public, and staff, and any intentional breach of this will result in disciplinary action.
- 12.4 If an allegation of bullying does come up, the school will:
- take it seriously;
  - investigate as quickly as possible to establish the facts;
  - record and report the incident; depending on how serious the case is, it may be reported to the Principal;
  - provide support and reassurance to the victim;
  - make it clear to the 'bully' that this behaviour will not be tolerated. If there is a group of people involved, they will be spoken to individually and as a whole group. It is important that children who have harmed another, either physically or emotionally, redress their actions, and staff will make sure that they understand what they have done and the impact of their actions;
  - discuss the matter with both parties, bring them together and insist on the perpetrator seeing the other person's point of view; sometimes the no blame approach is used, sometimes negotiation and sometimes sanctions;
  - ensure that if a sanction is used, it will correlate to the seriousness of the incident and the 'bully' will be told why it is being used;
  - consider whether suspension or exclusion is appropriate in light of the circumstances.
- 12.5 The school believes pupils should be able to enjoy using social media in a safe environment but recognises that there are inherent threats in using social media which could harm the welfare of pupils and staff at the school. Where a member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is using social media in an inappropriate way, which could cause harm to another person in the school community, the member of staff should report this to a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team. Following

any such report an investigation will follow during which an authorised member of staff may ask that the pupil gives them access to their social media account. In the event that the pupil refuses to cooperate and will not give access to an authorised member of staff during an investigation this could lead to an adverse decision taken against the pupil.

### **13 Child-on-Child Abuse**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable and will not be tolerated. The Trust will act swiftly in response to instances of alleged child-on-child abuse and will follow its safeguarding policy and Keeping Children Safe statutory guidance. Risk assessments will be carried out and measures put in place while investigations into any reports continue. Support will be provided to the reported victim and abuser. The outcome of the investigation may lead to sanctions being imposed in accordance with the terms of this policy.

### **14 Complaints**

If parents have any concerns or complaints over the application or implementation of this policy, they should raise their concerns with a staff member or the Principal in accordance with the school's complaints procedure. If the concern relates to a suspension or exclusion, the statutory procedure set out in the exclusions guidance will be followed.