

BEMBRIDGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



STATEMENT OF BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES

APPROVED BY FULL GOVERNING BODY

FEBRUARY 2014

Rationale and purpose

This Statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act, 2006, and DfE_guidance (Behaviour and Discipline in Schools, updated April 2013).

The purpose of the Statement is to provide guidance for 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 pupils in the school as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters. It is intended to help all school staff to be aware of and understand the extent of their powers in respect of discipline and sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the Governors' support when following this guidance.

This is a statement of principles, not practice: it is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to draw up the school's behaviour policy, though they must take account of these principles when formulating this. The Headteacher and Deputy Head are also asked to take account of the guidance in DfE publication Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: a guide for Headteachers and school staff (updated April 2013)

The Behaviour Policy is publicised to staff and families on the school website.

Principles

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

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

All visitors to the school should feel safe and free from the effects of poor behaviour at all times and in all parts of the school.

Bembridge CE Primary School is an inclusive school. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010). The school has a clear and comprehensive Anti-bullying Policy that is known and understood by all, consistently applied and monitored for its effectiveness.

The school's legal duties under the Equality Act, 2010 in respect of safeguarding, pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, and all vulnerable pupils, is set out in the Behaviour Policy and known to all staff.

Parents/carers should be encouraged and helped to support their children's education, just as the pupils are helped to understand their responsibilities during their time at school, in the local community and in preparation for their life after school. The responsibilities of pupils, parents/carers and school staff with respect to pupils' behaviour are outlined in the 'Home School Agreement' which pupils and parents/carers are asked to sign when a pupil joins the school.

The School Rules are clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. These 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 pupils. The Governors expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff and regularly monitored for their effectiveness by the Headteacher.

Sanctions for unacceptable/poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and pupils and consistently applied. The full range of sanctions should be clearly described in the Behaviour Policy so that pupils, staff and parents can understand how and when these are applied. The Governors strongly feel that exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, must be used only as a very last resort. 'Unofficial' exclusions are illegal and are avoided. The Headteacher may inform the police, as appropriate, if there is evidence of a criminal act or if she fears that one may take place. Sanctions should be monitored for their proper use and effective impact.

The Behaviour Policy sets out the disciplinary action that will be taken against pupils who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff. Governors expect the Headteacher to draw on the advice in Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other staff guidance document when setting out the pastoral support that school staff should expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers. Staff so accused should not be automatically suspended pending an investigation.

The Governors expect the Headteacher and Deputy Head to include the following in some detail in the Behaviour Policy:

Use of Reasonable Force

The Governing Body gives all school staff a power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action. Suspension will not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force. This will be investigated by a panel of governors.

The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions and is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

The governors expect that school staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Screening and Searching Pupils

The Governing Body gives permission for school staff to search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees, without consent from the parent. Head teachers and the teachers authorised** by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent by either pupil or parent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

- Knives or weapons
- Stolen items
- Head teachers and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules.

** Head teachers should decide who to authorise to use these powers. There is no requirement to provide authorisation in writing.

Confiscation

The Governing Body allow school staff to seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline. The Governing Body states the school must follow the obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Power To Discipline beyond the School Gates

The Governing Body gives the Headteacher and all staff the power to discipline outside the school gates. The Behaviour Policy needs to set out the school's response to all non-criminal bad behaviour by children who can be identified as pupils of Bembridge CE Primary