

WILLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Behaviour Policy

Overview

At Willington Primary School we encourage a high standard of positive behaviour. We believe:

‘At all times a high standard of behaviour is set. We encourage the children to have respect for themselves and others. Repeated bad behaviour may result in withdrawal of special privileges. We always try to deal with problems in school but if these are persistent we will contact parents so that we can work together towards a solution...’

One of the Governors stated aims for the school is:

‘To develop a social awareness, empathy, tolerance, good citizenship and the confidence to face challenges of life in a changing society’.

We believe that positive behaviour patterns are reinforced by

- example
- the reinforcement of good practice
- expectation
- firm and consistent refusal to accept other patterns of behaviour
- fairness
- house/team points
- ‘Willington Wolf’ award

Our Practice

Positive behaviour codes are reinforced consistently throughout the school. Much of our PSHE work is aimed at considering other people’s feelings, encouraging self-respect and respect for others. Every teacher discusses their classroom rules with their class.

Rewards

Good and polite behaviour is valued by all members of staff. This may take the form of a smile, eye contact, verbal praise, team/house points, a sticker or stamp from the class teacher. Children are always spoken to courteously and courtesy is expected in return.

Sanctions

Where inappropriate behaviour is displayed initially it is dealt with by the class teacher, according to their class systems. Appropriate sanctions, according to the situation and age of child, will be taken. It may be enough to express adult disappointment in what has happened and an apology from the child accepted. However, it may be appropriate for the child to lose part of or the whole of playtime – each case is dealt with on its own merits.

Where any of these sanctions are applied it is important that children understand why they have been imposed.

Repeated or extreme inappropriate behaviour may result in the child being sent to the Headteacher who will then decide on the appropriate sanction to take.

If there is no improvement or should the situation worsen then parents will be invited into school to meet with Headteacher and or class teacher.

If appropriate, specialist help may be requested from an outside agency – eg Educational Psychologist or Behaviour Support. Parents are always informed.

In extreme circumstances, the Head may exclude a child from school for a fixed term. As a final resort, if the behaviour is so unacceptable that it becomes a risk to other children or staff the Head could exclude the child permanently. Exclusion procedures as required by the local authority are followed.

Bullying

Any form of bullying or racism is totally unacceptable at this school.

Bullying of other children may take the form of:

- physical assault
- name calling, verbal abuse or threats
- ridiculing of differences, for example, ethnic or social culture, economic standing, physical differences
- the introduction of offensive material to school – jokes, story books or comics, Tshirt slogans etc.
- internet/cyber bullying

In these situations we have two responsibilities:

- to the victim
- to the child who is bullying

Those responsibilities are to

- state and demonstrate to both parties that the behaviour is not acceptable
- offer support and reassurance to the victim
- to consider the circumstances surrounding the incident
- monitor the future situation for both parties as well as any impact or influence upon the school community

In dealing with incidents of bullying the following procedure is adopted:

- **A careful investigation** to ascertain the facts

Its aim is to reach a consensus of agreement between the children concerned of what has taken place and when. To encourage the child/children to take responsibility for his/her behaviour and to support the victim.

- **The history and severity of the incident** should dictate the depth of the member of staffs' next actions to:
 - support and encourage the victim
 - punish the child/children within the guidelines of the school's Behaviour Policy

Removing the child/children from their peers can serve a dual effect – it is seen as a punishment by other children but also protects the child/children from further accusations.

Decisions will be influenced by the frequency and severity of such incidents for each party.

- **The children's level of understanding** of the nature of the incident should be considered, for example:

A child may feel victimised by other children's behaviour. It is our responsibility to help the child with those feelings and to encourage other children to empathise.

Young children may use unacceptable language and behaviour without realising its seriousness. It is important that school standards are made clear and we are aware that this may conflict with what is acceptable at home. This could be difficult for the child and may set up a conflict of loyalty for them.

The Headteacher may wish to meet with the parents of the children concerned (both parties) and will provide clear details of what has taken place and what action was taken in school to deal with the matter.

Where allegations of bullying are made by a parent or child these allegations are taken seriously. The teacher or Headteacher will follow this up and report their findings back to the parent.

Prejudice-related bullying

Where inappropriate remarks or behaviour are observed the above procedures will be followed. Where a child is found to have behaved in an inappropriate manner, made racist or other inappropriate remarks it will be reported on a 'Prejudice-Related Bullying in Schools Reporting Form' and both sets of parents will be informed.

Our policy on Race Equality and Cultural Diversity should also be consulted.

Physical Intervention

Physical intervention is rarely used at Willington Primary School. However, it may be necessary in order to:

- to prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others, (e.g. rough play, stopping a young person from running towards traffic)
- to prevent a young person causing serious damage to property
- to prevent a pupil/young person committing an offence (or for any pupil/young person under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be considered an offence for an older pupil/young person)

Duty of Care

Staff should be aware that their employment imposes upon them a duty of care to maintain an acceptable level of safety. It is acknowledged that the behaviour of children and young people can become dangerous and physical intervention may be required. This is inevitably a high risk action. Guidelines cannot anticipate every situation and, therefore, the sound judgement of staff at all times is crucial. This may mean not getting physically involved if this would put you at direct risk, but could include summoning relevant assistance. It is not acceptable to do nothing.

Who May Use Physical Interventions

Only "Authorised staff" may use physical interventions within Wellington Primary. The term "Authorised Staff" means any paid worker, or person who has been given lawful control or charge of children and young people by the Headteacher, either on or off-site.

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