Statement of Behaviour Principles

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

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Statement of Behaviour Principles

The Department for Education requires governing bodies of maintained schools to publish statements of behaviour principles for their school. The Governing Body, therefore, has a duty to produce and review a written statement of general principles to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour and discipline among pupils. The document Behaviour and Discipline in Schools Guidance for Governing Bodies (DfE – January 2016) has been used as a reference in producing this Statement of Behaviour Principles.

The purpose of this statement is to provide guidance for the Headteacher in drawing up the school's Behaviour Policy, ensuring it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of governors, staff and parents for the children in school, whilst taking full account of the law and guidance on behaviour matters. This is a statement of principles, not practice.

The Governing Body of Hatch Warren Junior School believes that highest standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school, one that enables all students to make the best possible progress in all aspect of their school life and enables staff to teach and promote good learning.

Right to feel safe at all times

All young people, staff and other members of the school community have the right to feel safe at all times while in school. We expect all members of the school community to behave responsibly and to treat each other with respect. Bullying or harassment of any kind is unacceptable, even if it occurs outside normal school hours.

High standards of behaviour

The Governors strongly believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school. Good teaching and learning promote good behaviour, and good behaviour promotes effective learning. Children have the right to learn and to achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives, and staff have the right to teach. Governors also believe that the expectation of high standards of behaviour during the school day can positively influence young people's lives outside school, encouraging them to become successful citizens.

Staff and visitors are expected to set an excellent example to pupils at all times, and pupils are supported in taking responsibility for their actions.

Inclusivity and Equality

We are an inclusive school. We believe in equality and in valuing the individual. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination, harassment and bullying, which will not be tolerated in any form. Measures to counteract bullying and discrimination will be consistently applied and monitored for effectiveness.

The school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, as described in the School's Equality Policy, are reinforced through the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies and aim to safeguard

vulnerable pupils. We recognise that some pupils may need additional support to meet behaviour expectations.

Home school agreement

Hatch Warren Junior School's Home School Agreement document should clearly outline the responsibilities of pupils, parents/carers and school staff with respect to behaviour. It should encourage parents/carers to support their children's education and help them understand their responsibilities during their time at school. This document is sent to parents/carers at the beginning of the school year (or when a new pupil joins the school). Families and carers are involved in managing behaviour incidents to foster strong relationships between school and home.

School rules

The Governors expect rules to be simple and kept to a minimum. They support consistent systems, differentiated by age, that promote responsibility through choice and consequence. All staff are expected to uphold these rules and codes, ensuring consistent application and expectations throughout the school day. Rules relating to expected standards of behaviour should be clearly displayed in all classrooms and other relevant parts of the school, and prominently featured in the Behaviour Policy.

Rewards

Rewards for good behaviour, and to encourage it, should be consistently and fairly applied in the classroom and elsewhere throughout the school. These should be clearly outlined in the Behaviour Policy.

Sanctions

Sanctions for unacceptable or poor behaviour should be understood and consistently applied. The Behaviour Policy should describe these sanctions in detail to ensure that staff, pupils and parents understand when and how they are applied.

The school's policy on exclusions, as outlined in the Behaviour Policy, should explain how and when exclusions, both fixed-term and permanent, will be used. Exclusions will only be used as a last resort.

The Governors emphasise that violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by pupils or parents towards school staff will not be tolerated. If a parent behaves inappropriately, the school may ban them from the premises. Continued disturbance may lead to prosecution.

The use of reasonable force

The use of force should always be a last resort. However, Governors agree it may be used in certain circumstances (see the DfE document Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force in schools 2026). Reasonable force may be used to:

- protect pupils from harming themselves or others
- prevent damage to property
- deter the commission of a criminal offence
- maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.

Authorised staff must be appropriately trained in positive handling and restraint. All staff should receive guidance on de-escalation and behaviour management techniques.

There is a statutory duty to record and report all significant incidents including the use of force. Where a risk has been identified, an individual pupil may have a behaviour management plan that includes specific physical intervention techniques, if appropriate.

Discipline beyond the school gates

The Governors expect staff to respond to non-criminal poor behaviour and bullying that occurs off school premises if witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the school. The Behaviour Policy should outline the school's response to poor behaviour when a pupil is:

- taking part in a school-organised or school-related activity
- wearing school uniform
- identifiable as a pupil at the school.

Even if these conditions do not apply, the policy must address misbehaviour that could:

- affect the orderly running of the school
- pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public
- adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Screening and searching pupils

The Behaviour Policy should state that staff may search a pupil or their possessions if they have reasonable grounds to suspect the presence of a prohibited item. The school will follow DfE guidance: Searching, screening and confiscation at school.

Pastoral care for school staff accused of misconduct

The governing body instructs the headteacher to follow the guidance in 'Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff' when outlining the pastoral support available to staff accused of misusing their powers.

Multi-agency assessments

The Behaviour Policy should include information about when a multi-agency assessment will be considered for pupils who display persistent disruptive behaviour.

Review

This written statement of behaviour principles is reviewed and approved annually by the full governing board.