



**Bishop Wilkinson**  
Catholic Education Trust  
Through Christ, in Partnership

# **Governors' Behaviour Principles Written Statement**

Date Approved by Trust	November 23
Statutory Policy	No
Required on Website	Yes
Review Period	Annual
Next Review Date	November 24
Reviewed by	DCEO

## **Introduction**

Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires Governing Bodies and management committees of maintained schools to have regard to the statutory guidance from the Secretary of State for Education in making and reviewing a written statement of behaviour. Although this is not mandatory for academies, it is strongly advised that academies consider the guidance.

The Local Governing Committee have produced this written statement of general principles, supported by Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils.

Schools are required to have Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies which include the school's expected standard of behaviour. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher along with the staff in the school to produce these policies, and good practise for the Local Governing Committee to provide the Headteacher with a clear written statement of the principles around which the whole school Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy will be formed and follow.

This Statement of Behaviour and Discipline, and associated principles, will be reviewed annually to take account of any legislative or other changes which may affect the content or relevance of this document.

## **Scope**

This statement applies to all Governors, parents and carers, pupils, staff and leaders of St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley, or other visitors to the schools.

## **Principles**

The Governors of St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley, support the schools in achieving their mission, values and aims whilst safeguarding its rights. The expectations of the Local Governing Committee regarding behaviour and discipline include the following key principles:

- **The Right to Feel Safe** - Governors strongly believe that children, staff and members of the school community have the right to feel safe at all times whilst in school. There is an unequivocal expectation that all members of the school community behave responsibly and treat each other with respect. Bullying and harassment of any description is unacceptable, even if it occurs outside of school hours.
- **High Standards of Behaviour Expectations** - Governors believe that high standards of behaviour – such as those which are fully expected in the school day – can have a positive effect on the life of children outside school, thereby encouraging them to be responsible and valued citizens. They believe that high standards of behaviour firmly contribute to the overall success of the school, providing opportunities for effective learning to which all children are entitled.

Pupils will observe the schools' rules and classroom charters as a framework for their behaviour and will be aware of the many mechanisms available to support their behaviour and personal development within the school.

## **Inclusion and Equality**

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

The schools' legal duties in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010 will be further reinforced through the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies and seek to safeguard vulnerable pupils. We recognise that some pupils may need additional support to meet behaviour expectations.

As inclusive schools, any form of discrimination or bullying will be addressed promptly following the agreed procedures and practices outlined in the schools' Anti-Bullying Policy.

## **Rewards**

Governors believe that positive behaviours should be rewarded to encourage good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere in school. Governors expect that the rewards system (as outlined in the Behaviour Policy) are fully explained to those who have responsibility for children, including adults delivering extended provision, so that there is a consistent message to pupils that good behaviour reaps positive outcomes. The rewards system must be regularly monitored for consistency, fair application and effectiveness.

## **Sanctions**

Governors expect that sanctions for unacceptable/poor behaviour are widely known and understood by all staff with authority for behaviour; by parents and pupils; and also by adults providing extended provision. Sanctions are monitored for their proper use; for their consistency and for their effective impact.

Staff will be empowered to take prompt and effective action when pupils behave inappropriately. They will work in partnership with home and external agencies to maximise the chances of every pupil behaving responsibly.

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

The Parent Code of Conduct will be an important aspect of communicating our approach so that parents/carers can be encouraged to support their child, just as pupils should be helped to understand their responsibilities during their time in school; in the wider community; and in preparation for their life after school. The responsibilities of children, parents/carers, and school staff (with regard to children's

behaviour) is outlined in the Parental Code of Conduct which parents are asked to follow.

### **Use of reasonable force**

Governors expect our Positive Handling Policy to clearly outline the circumstances where staff may use reasonable force and other physical contact. At all times, the use of force should be a last resort, but Governors agree it may be used in the following circumstances (reference: Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006):

- In self-defence or when safety is an issue
- Where there is a risk of significant damage to property
- To search pupils for weapons/stolen property

### **Power to discipline for poor behaviour outside the school gates**

Governors expect the school's Behaviour Policy to apply to non-criminal behaviour and bullying which occurs anywhere off the school premises and which is witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the school via a member of the community.

Governors will instruct the Headteacher to apply the school's behaviour policy to circumstances that occur off-site when a pupil is taking part in any school-organised or school related activity, whilst wearing school uniform (or being otherwise identifiable as a pupil of school). Further, even when these conditions do not apply,

Governors will expect action when conduct of pupils out of school could:

- Have repercussions for the orderly running of school
- Pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public
- Adversely affect the good reputation of school.

Governors will direct the Headteacher to manage occurrences of inappropriate use of social media by staff, pupils and parents/carers as per our E-Safety Policy.

### **Pastoral care for school staff**

Governors would not expect automatic suspension of a member of staff who has been accused of misconduct, pending an investigation. Governors would, however, expect the Headteacher to draw on and follow the advice in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (including Dealing with Allegations Against Staff) Policy when setting out the pastoral support that school staff can expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their position of trust. A staff Code of Conduct staff is in place.

### **References used in making this statement**

- Behaviour and Discipline In Schools: A Guide for Headteachers and School Staff (DfE 2022)
- Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: Guidance for Governing Bodies (DfE 2012)

- Use of Reasonable Force in Schools: Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies (DfE 2013)
- Screening, Searching and Confiscation: Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies (DfE 2022)
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England, including Pupil Movement: Guidance for Maintained Schools, Academies, and Pupil Referral Units in England (DfE 2023)

### **Links with other policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with others, listed below:

- Behaviour Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- E-Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (including Dealing with Allegations Against Staff)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Positive Handling Policy

### **Monitoring**

This statement was agreed by the Local Governing Committee and will be reviewed annually.



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Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust  
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