



Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School

'To love, live and learn together'

Policy on Behaviour and Good Friendships (Anti Bullying)

Date adopted by Governing Body: Autumn 2025

Date for review: Autumn 2026

Good behaviour and discipline in the school is essential for successful teaching and learning. Children thrive in a happy, calm and caring atmosphere. This atmosphere can only be achieved if children are aware of and abide by the expectations for good behaviour. We expect and teach self-discipline, honesty and respect for others.

Our partnership with parents is also key to high quality good behaviour in our school. It is important that good behaviour is fostered both through good teaching practice and by staff and all in the school community setting an example to the children.

Aims

At Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE Primary School, we aim to promote positive behaviour through respect for one another, through accepting responsibility for own actions and by developing a consistent approach to appreciating the rights, views and property of others. We seek to develop a reasonable and co-operative attitude at all times.

We regard trusting relationships and co-operative teamwork as essential for learning and self-development to take place.

We expect the living out of our behaviour policy to reflect our Christian vision and values:

'To love, live and learn together'

Our vision is for all in our school family to:

Love themselves and others as children of God

'Love one another as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)

Live life to the full in all aspects of their development; academically, spiritually, physically, mentally and culturally

'Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Jesus calls us to a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit. Therefore we believe the purpose of education is to nurture and enable every child to thrive and to be the person they are fully capable of being.

Learn to be the best they can be

'And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom...' (Luke 2:40)

Our Vision Statement:

At Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School we welcome everyone to a school community where all can flourish. Underpinned by our Christian values, everyone belongs and is valued as a child of God. We promote academic excellence and the development of character, knowledge and skills to enjoy being our best selves now and in the future.

We aim to live out our vision through our values. These are:

Love, Creation, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope, Justice, Peace, Respect, Honesty, Thankfulness, Trust, Community

Objectives

Our behaviour policy is non-discriminatory and inclusive. All members of the school community have a responsibility to uphold the school aims by:

- *Respecting the rights, values and beliefs of the individual.
- *Fostering and promoting good relationships and a sense of belonging to the school community.
- *Encouraging, praising and positively reinforcing good relationships, behaviour and work.
- *Offering equal opportunities in all aspects of school life and recognising the importance of different cultures and traditions.
- *Helping to develop strategies to eliminate unacceptable behaviour and applying these consistently.
- *Providing a well ordered environment in which all are fully aware of behavioural expectations.
- *Caring for, and taking pride in, the physical environment of the school.
- *Not tolerating any conduct involving bullying or harassment (See section on bullying issues).
- *Creating a secure, safe and caring environment to enable the highest standards to flourish.
- *Stimulating pupils and promoting self-esteem whilst developing enthusiasm and motivation towards learning.
- *Creating a supportive partnership between all those involved in the pupil's education.

We aim to do this by: -

- *Developing a positive, responsible and caring attitude amongst all children towards each other and all adults.
- *Expecting, encouraging and regarding good behaviour, good manners and politeness to other children and adults as highly important.
- *Ensuring that all pupils are aware of their responsibilities and what is acceptable behaviour both within school and outside.
- *Teaching and reinforcing the values, which matter to the school including self-discipline, honesty, respect for the property of others and the community, fairness and trust.
- *Encouraging a child to tell an adult when they come across bullying of any kind (See section on bullying issues)
- *Ensuring that every parent and member of staff are aware and, have access to the policy.

The Golden Rules

Our behaviour expectations are based on Jenny Moseley's Golden Rules. These are displayed in the classrooms and around the school. Children are regularly reminded about these Golden Rules, and encouraged to keep them at all times and in all contexts:

**Welcome everyone
Be gentle
Be kind and helpful
Work hard
Look after property
Listen to people**

Be honest

Responsibilities

All members of staff have a shared responsibility for managing pupil behaviour. The Head teacher, Class Teachers and SENDCo have a particular responsibility for ensuring that new members of staff are made aware of this policy, and for ensuring fairness and consistency of approach from all staff.

They are also responsible for ensuring that staff have appropriate support in managing pupil behaviour, as well as opportunities for training.

Recording and reporting incidents of serious misconduct is a responsibility of senior staff in communication with all staff involved.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the SEND policy where advice and support for specific needs which may impact upon behaviour can be found.

Children

We are also mindful of the need to involve the children in their responsibilities for good behaviour by:

- *Contributing to the development of school rules and adhering to them.
- *Discussing issues at school council.
- *Taking increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- *Helping to look after and take pride in the school environment.

Parents

Parents are crucial to this policy being implemented and can contribute to its development by:

- *Ensuring children attend school in good health, punctually and regularly (this involves not taking holidays outside of term time whenever possible).
- *Providing prompt explanations of absences through either an email or telephone call to the school office.
- *Supporting staff in the implementation of all school policies.
- *Taking an active interest in children's learning by supporting them in activities such as hearing reading, assisting with the learning of spellings and homework.
- *Participating in discussions concerning their child's progress and attainment at an appropriate time.
- *Ensuring early contact with the school to discuss matters, which affect their child's happiness, progress and behaviour. This is especially true where bullying issues are concerned.
- *Being prepared to work in partnership with the school to improve children's behaviour when necessary.

We seek to develop good partnerships with parents by providing regular opportunities for parents to be involved in school life and by encouraging parents to work alongside the teaching staff to enhance and support the development of their children and the school environment.

Bullying Issues

Parents, staff and children are encouraged to discuss any concerns openly. **Children and parents must be confident that any form of bullying in school will not be tolerated.**

We define a child as a bully when they **repeatedly** cause distress to another child by either verbal or physical means.

Examples include: -

- Physical attack or threat of it
- Name-calling
- Persistent emphasising an aspect of physical appearance or the social/racial background of an individual
- Spreading rumours/lying about an individual
- Persistent behaviour intended to annoy
- Deliberately ignoring
- Damaging, removing, or hiding possessions or work

Remember teasing for some is bullying for others

Key Strategies for Tackling Bullying

We have a commitment to tackle any bullying, which might take place in the school.

A positive approach will be taken to prevent bullying. As part of the PSHCE curriculum, children will be encouraged to discuss what bullying is. They will be encouraged to foster sharing and kindness, to develop social skills and to look upon bullying as anti-social and unacceptable.

If a child or parent feels that an incidence of bullying has taken place, they should approach a member of staff within the school with the information. The member of staff will investigate and involve other staff as appropriate (e.g. class teacher, Head Teacher) Where bullying continues, the parents of the children involved will be contacted and their support sought.

We will on occasion use the support of external agencies in tackling bullying.

Antisocial behaviour within school

In the case of antisocial incidents within school, for example at playtimes, the adult dealing with it will listen carefully and strive to ensure that fairness prevails. An apology and/or gesture of reconciliation (handshake for example) will be sought. It may be appropriate to impose a sanction.

If the incident is more serious the pupil will be taken to a senior member of staff who will discuss the incident, seek fairness and consider the use of sanctions.

Sanctions

Sanctions should be used in proportion to the offence or distress caused. Whenever possible the sanction should contribute to putting right the wrong that has been done; repair or contribution towards the repair of damage; letter of apology to the offended person if appropriate.

Our Christian value of forgiveness is also linked to saying sorry, making a fresh start and moving forward positively.

The child or group is required to discuss what they feel was the effect of their behaviour and how they would feel if it were done to them. They should be encouraged to discuss what should be done to prevent a repetition of their behaviour.

Sanctions may involve loss of playtime or lunchtime play, removal of privilege, Golden Time or Club attendance.

Teachers keep a record of the incident and loss of playtime/lunch time privilege/club.

When it is necessary to refer a child to Senior Staff a record of this will be kept in the Behaviour log. After consultation with the Headteacher parents will be informed of serious behaviour issues.

Reinforcing Good Behaviour and Work

At Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's, we aim to have a balanced approach to discipline, using incentives as well as sanctions. Where possible, we praise good behaviour and attitudes.

This takes the form of:

- *Verbal praise: this can be done on a one to one basis, in front of a group or as part of an assembly.

- *Written praise on work.

- *Children may also receive stickers for good behaviour (e.g. kindness, consideration, helpfulness).

- *Children may also receive house points for good behaviour and attitudes to work and these can lead to certificates being awarded.

- *Each week, children who have worked/behaved really well can be mentioned in the Friday Special Mentions Assembly, attended by the whole school. Certificates may also be awarded for aspects of good behaviour.

Playground code of conduct

Respect each other's space and games.

In a conflict situation, walk away and have a five-minute cool down. If necessary, talk to a member of staff.

Give space when asked.

Give time to requests.

Try to include whoever asks to join in.

Play games by rules.

NB: Children should NEVER be touched or restrained unless they are a danger to themselves or others. Should there ever be a need to restrain a child, North Yorkshire guidance will be followed.

Pupil Mobile Phones in School

In line with the Department for Education guidance 'Mobile phones in schools' (February 2024), the school does not permit pupils to have their mobile phone with them during the school day. School leaders are able to exercise their legal power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices for a length of time they deem appropriate.

The school is mindful that there may be exceptional circumstances in which a child may need to bring a mobile phone to school. Please contact the school if this is the case and arrangements will be made for the phone to be stored securely in the school office during the school day. Pupils should not use their phones before or after school whilst on the school premises.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

We have a zero-tolerance approach to any harmful sexual behaviour involving children and acknowledge that it could be occurring in our school community. We are proactive in our approach to assessing prevalence, responding to incidents and challenging and changing behaviour.

Schools have a statutory duty to safeguard the children in their setting. We work together to foster an environment that creates healthy relationships for children.

Our whole school approach encourages healthy relationships and works to prevent harmful sexual behaviour. We provide high quality education within the curriculum to reduce the likelihood of these situations occurring.

We recognise that harmful sexual behaviour is harmful to both the child/children affected by the behaviours and the child/children who displayed the behaviour and provide ongoing support for all involved.

Our approach is to treat everything as a safeguarding incident in the first instance - we distinguish between behaviours that are exploratory and part of healthy age and ability appropriate development and those that may be harmful.

As a school, we provide regular opportunities for school staff to understand what harmful sexual behaviours might look like and what they should do in the event of a report. We do this by providing training and regular updates where possible and using the NSPCC Traffic Light tool:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2685/responding-to-children-who-display-sexualised-behaviour-guide.pdf>

We also use the RSHE/PSHCE curriculum to help educate children about these issues as well as regularly reminding and promoting the reporting routes within our school to ensure children know what to do should an incident occur.

We take part as a whole school in the NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe programme on an annual basis.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe>

In addition to the above, further information is available from the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership:

https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/HSB_OMG_Carers_FINAL-1.pdf

Reviewed September 25 (next review September 26)

This policy should be cross referenced to the Policy on Special Educational Needs; Policy on Equality; Policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection.

