

Reference:

This policy is reviewed by the school leaders and governors and is based on guidance found in the document "Behaviour and discipline in schools – Advice for headteachers and school staff" (February 2014) (DFE-00023-2014).

The purpose of this policy is:

- To document the philosophy and good practices which are already taking place at school.
- to remind everybody of the school's aims and ethos.
- to highlight the importance behaviour plays in realising these.
- to share the behaviour principles and the code of conduct which follows from them.
- to highlight the significance of the school environment, the importance of examples set by adults and the power of encouragement in nurturing good behaviour.
- to explain how good behaviour is rewarded and reinforced.
- to explain how inappropriate behaviour is discouraged while attempting to understand and support each child's needs as an individual.
- to make clear the limits of staff authority.
- to explain who parents can approach if they have concerns or questions about behaviour

This policy is published on the school website (www.ashtonceprimary.co.uk). It is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with up to date law. The policy is shared, in writing, with staff, parents and pupils at the beginning of each school year. The home-school agreement (signed by parents following their child's admission to the school) includes information on the standard of behaviour expected of all pupils.

School aims and ethos

Our motto is "each valued, each talented, each unique". This means we aim to allow every child to develop as an individual, providing them with the opportunity to become confident and independent learners who are equipped for the challenges of secondary school and adult life. As a Church of England school, we provide a caring Christian environment in which children feel safe and secure and in which children recognise and embrace respect for others and for themselves. For our school it is important that achievement, both in and out of school, is celebrated.

Principles

These school aims and ethos cannot be realised without the good behaviour of children and adults alike, for which the school is well known. It is one of the school's best assets and we are rightly proud of it. The following principles all engender good behaviour and remind us what is most important:

- We are safe and happy.
- We show respect for ourselves, for each other and for our environment.
- We value honesty, trust and fairness.
- We understand the effect of our actions on the people around us.
- None of us should ever have to be bullied.
- We show self-discipline and try to complete work which is asked of us.
- We fulfil our learning potential, have rounded skills and are prepared for our futures.
- We celebrate the achievement and success of everyone.

The School Code

At the beginning of every year, the staff and children come together in an assembly to review the code of conduct as a shared exercise.

The following 'school code' has been agreed:

- Speak politely to others
- Respect people and their property
- Be considerate and helpful
- Walk inside the school buildings and keep them clean and tidy
- Try our best to complete work and tasks set by teachers

A positive atmosphere

Many things contribute to an atmosphere which enables and encourages good behaviour, including a clean and tidy school environment, familiar routines and a calm classroom setting. Staff know their children well and pay careful attention to class groupings, and work hard to match the planned work to children's individual needs and abilities. They are enthusiastic and use praise to promote good behaviour as well as good work.

The example set by staff and parents has a huge impact on the children. For this reason, the school expects exemplary behaviour of everybody on and around the school premises.

Encouragement and discouragement

Good behaviour of children must always be recognised and encouraged. We believe that positive reinforcement is at the heart of an effective behaviour policy. On occasions when children behave inappropriately, the consequences must be age-appropriate fair and applied consistently. Regular staff meetings ensure that all members of staff understand a common policy and respond to inappropriate behaviour consistently.

Children's individual needs and circumstances must be taken into account. For instance, one-to-one support may be most helpful. This is one of the things that makes Ashton special; the school is intimate and the staff know their children well. Ultimately, the response to inappropriate behaviour should come full circle and end as an experience from which the pupil understands the consequence and is positively motivated to change their future behaviour. One of the ways this is achieved is through the use of 'reflection sheets', which are tailored to be age-appropriate.

Encouragement of good behaviour could take the form of a smile and spoken praise to more formal recognition such as written comments or stickers in books, or notes to parents in their child's diary. Children might also be granted special privileges or sought-after duties. Ashton also recognises children with a 'Star of the week' status which is published in the weekly newsletter and on the school website. Once per term there is a Head Teacher's Tea Party to which the invitation (in a gold envelope) will have merited exceptional behaviour and work.

In most instances, discouragement of inappropriate behaviour is addressed at the time while it is fresh in the mind. Every opportunity is taken to encourage children to make the choice to change their behaviour themselves, something which can be challenging for children and for which they must be rewarded with praise. Instances of poor behaviour are recorded carefully and week-by-week information is shared with the governing body and/or its committees. This monitoring helps to ensure that the school continues to follow its own behaviour policy.

Responses to continuing disruptive or inappropriate behaviour may include 'local' consequences (such as being told to move to a different area of the classroom, or being asked to apologise to somebody), or more formal consequences such as a loss of privileges (e.g. a shortened break time to tidy a classroom) or notification to the Head Teacher. Ashton has also recently adopted a yellow/red card system to further improve consistency of response and understanding between staff, children and parents. This system has been explained to parents and children and must be explained at the beginning of each year. A yellow card for behaviour implies a note in the diary home, which needs to be acknowledged by the parent. If a red card is necessary, a conversation takes place with the parent(s) on the day of the event.

Where an ongoing behaviour issue becomes apparent, the school will seek to understand and support the underlying reason behind it cooperatively with parents.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Where a child is known to have different needs (or this is suspected, in the absence of a diagnosis or statement), the school recognises that a different approach to behaviour may be appropriate, alongside educational support to allow that child to fulfil their academic potential. Parents are encouraged to talk to the school if they have such concerns about their children. Separate SEN and inclusion policies are available on the website and contain more detailed information.

Bullying

Bullying is not an acceptable behaviour and children at Ashton are reminded of the fact regularly during assemblies and worship. Fortunately, bullying has not been a problem at the school, but this will only continue to be the case while children and/or their parents feel that they can speak openly to a member of staff should they have concerns about bullying.

Concerns or questions

Any concerns or questions about behaviour or the behaviour policy itself are encouraged. There is procedure for making complaints about behaviour. Please contact the school office for details.

Limits of authority

The law ultimately dictates the ways in which staff can and cannot discipline children. It also sets out where and when this can take place. Happily, Ashton Primary has been praised for its standard of behaviour and these limits are only theoretical. However, the school is duty bound to inform parents and children of these limits of authority.

The school behaviour policy applies to children in school and, in some circumstances, outside of school (e.g. bullying off school premises, witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the school). However, consequences for inappropriate behaviour can only take place when pupils are in school or on school visits. The behaviour policy can be enforced by all paid members of staff with responsibility for pupils, unless specified by the Head Teacher. Temporary confiscation of pupils' property is acceptable. Physical intervention is reserved for only extreme situations to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property. Staff members have received training to be able to do this safely for all concerned. Corporal punishment is illegal in all circumstances. School staff will consider whether continuing bad or disruptive behaviour is a sign of some other underlying problem, such as some sort of suffering the child is experiencing, unmet educational or other needs. If this is the case, the school may

consider inviting other agencies to assess the child's behaviour. Drugs, alcohol and weapons and inappropriate media content are all completely unacceptable.

Signed by:

Position: Head teacher

Date: 16th September 2015

Review date: September 2016