

English Martyrs' RC Primary School



Policy for Behaviour & Discipline 2023-2024

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Mission Statement

At English martyrs' RC Primary School, we believe that God is present in the 'day to day' life of our school. Our understanding of Christian spirituality is therefore as much about dealing with each other as it is about meeting God.

We aim to nurture a deeper understanding of the Church's teaching for all those involved in the daily life of the school.

Through the ethos of our school we aim to promote a Christian environment based on gospel values where Jesus Christ is at its heart through celebration and worship.

As a community we will affirm the personal dignity and equality of each member which will be honoured in spirit, in word, in deed and in law.

The school offers each child full access to an enriched and balanced curriculum in order to reach their full potential, challenging the whole community to recognise the unique contribution that each of us can make and work towards making that contribution in the fullest sense.

February 2024

To be Reviewed February 2025

Behaviour & Discipline Policy

- **Aims and Expectations**

It is a primary aim of English Martyrs' RC Primary School that every member of our school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school behaviour policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The school has a number of school rules, but the primary aim of the behaviour policy is not a system to enforce rules. It is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. This policy supports the school community in aiming to allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way.

The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others. We treat all children fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way. This policy aims to help children to grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community. The school rewards good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation. This policy is designed to promote good behaviour, rather than merely deter anti-social behaviour and should be read in conjunction with the DFE Guidance for Behaviour and Discipline in Schools, DFE Guidance for the Use of reasonable force in schools and the City of Sunderland/School Positive Handling Policy.

1. Rewards and Punishments

We praise and reward children for good behaviour in a variety of ways:

- teachers congratulate children;
- teachers give children pastoral points;
- each week we nominate a child from each class to be recognised for their achievements;
- these children receive a certificate in the school assembly;
- we distribute reward stickers to children either for consistent good work or behaviour, or to acknowledge outstanding effort or acts of kindness in school;
- names are recorded in our Celebration File.

The school acknowledges all the efforts and achievements of children, both in and out of school. The personal record file contains information regarding pupil achievement out of school, for example, music or swimming certificates.

The school employs a number of sanctions to enforce the school rules, and to ensure a safe and positive learning environment. We employ each sanction appropriately to each individual situation.

- We expect children to listen carefully to instructions in lessons. If they do not do so, we ask them either to move to a place nearer the teacher, or to sit on their own.
- We expect children to try their best in all activities. If they do not do so, we may ask them to redo a task.
- If a child is disruptive in class, the teacher reprimands him or her. If a child misbehaves repeatedly, we isolate the child from the rest of the class until s/he calms down, and is in a position to work sensibly again with others.
- The safety of the children is paramount in all situations. If a child's behaviour endangers the safety of others, the class teacher stops the activity and prevents the child from taking part for the rest of that session.
- If a child threatens, hurts or bullies another pupil, the class teacher records the incident and the child is punished. If a child repeatedly acts in a way that disrupts or upsets others, the school contacts the child's parents and seeks an appointment in order to discuss the situation, with a view to improving the behaviour of the child.

The class teacher discusses the school rules with each class. In addition to the school rules, each class also has its own classroom code, which is agreed by the children and displayed on the wall of the classroom. In this way, every child in the school knows the standard of behaviour that we expect in our school. If there are incidents of anti-social behaviour, the class teacher discusses these with the whole class during 'circle time'.

The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to stop any further occurrences of such behaviour. While it is very difficult to eradicate bullying, we do everything in our power to ensure that all children attend school free from fear.

2. Use of reasonable force

This section of the school behaviour policy should be read in conjunction with the following guidance:

- DFE Use of Reasonable Force. A summary for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies (Appendix 1)

In English Martyrs' School reasonable force can be used to:

- Remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so
- Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others
- Prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and

- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Force cannot and will not be used as a punishment. It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Should staff need to use reasonable force the guidance on appropriate restraint techniques in the DFE guidance (Appendix 1) will be followed at all times.

All staff will be appropriately trained and will strictly adhere to the school's positive handling policy.

Informing parents should reasonable force be used on their child.

- It is good practice for schools to speak to parents about serious incidents involving the use of force and to consider how best to record such serious incidents. It is up to schools to decide whether it is appropriate to report the use of force to parents.
- In deciding what is a serious incident, teachers should use their professional judgement and consider the:
 - Pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident
 - Degree of force used
 - Effect on the pupil or member of staff and
 - The child's age.

What happens if a pupil complains when force is used on them?

Refer to Section 8 DFE Guidance (Appendix 1)

Other physical contact with pupils.

All staff should follow safeguarding guidance in the Safer Working Practices document and refer also to Section 9 of the DFE Guidance (Appendix 1)

3. **In addition to the general power to use reasonable force** Headteachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable to conduct a search and to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property. (Refer to DFE Guidance Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) See also the associated link for the power to search without consent for weapons, knives, alcohol, drugs or stolen items.)

In English Martyrs' School, Senior Leaders are the authorised staff who can conduct a search.

Should any weapons or knives be found they must always be handed over the Police.

Senior Leaders will decide if and when to return other confiscated items.

4. **Pupils Conduct outside the school gates**

In response to non-criminal bad behaviour or bullying which occurs off the school premises and is witnessed by a member of staff the pupil will be disciplined (see Section 1 Rewards and Sanctions) if the following conditions apply:-

- Any misbehaviour when the child is:
 - Taking part in any school organised or school related activity or
 - Travelling to or from school or
 - Wearing school uniform or
 - In some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school.
- Or misbehaviour at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply that:
 - Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
 - Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or
 - Could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

5. The Role of the Class Teacher

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that the school rules are enforced in their class, and that their class behaves in a responsible manner during lesson time.

The class teachers in our school have high expectations of the children in terms of behaviour, and they strive to ensure that all children work to the best of their ability.

The class teacher treats each child fairly and enforces the classroom code consistently. The teacher treats all children in their class with respect and understanding. If a child misbehaves repeatedly in class, the class teacher keeps a record of all such incidents. In the first instance, the class teacher deals with incidents him/herself in the normal manner. However, if misbehaviour continues, the class teacher seeks help and advice from the Headteacher.

The class teacher liaises with external agencies, as necessary, to support and guide the progress of each child. The class teacher may, for example, discuss the needs of a child with the education social worker or LEA behaviour support service.

The class teacher reports to parents about the progress of each child in their class, in line with the whole-school policy. The class teacher may also contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of a child.

6. The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, to implement the school behaviour policy consistently throughout the school, and to report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy. It is also the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children in the school.

The Headteacher supports the staff by implementing the policy, by setting the standards of behaviour, and by supporting staff in the implementation of the policy.

The Headteacher keeps records of all reported serious incidents of misbehaviour.

The Headteacher has the responsibility for giving fixed-term suspensions to individual children for serious acts of misbehaviour. For repeated or very serious acts of anti-social behaviour, the Headteacher may permanently exclude a child. Both these actions are only taken after the school governors have been notified.

7. The Role of Parents

The school works collaboratively with parents, so children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school. We explain the school rules in the school prospectus, and we expect parents to read these and support them. We expect parents to support their child's learning, and to co-operate with the school, as set out in the home-school agreement.

We try to build a supportive dialogue between the home and the school, and we inform parents immediately if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.

If the school has to use reasonable sanctions to punish a child, parents should support the actions of the school. If parents have any concern about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the school governors. If these discussions cannot resolve the problem, a formal grievance or appeal process can be implemented.

8. The Role of Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on standards of discipline and behaviour, and of reviewing their effectiveness. The governors support the Headteacher in carrying out these guidelines.

The Headteacher has the day-to-day authority to implement the school behaviour and discipline policy, but governors may give advice to the Headteacher about particular disciplinary issues. The Headteacher must take this into account when making decisions about matters of behaviour.

9. Fixed-Term and Permanent Exclusions

Only the Headteacher (or the acting Headteacher) has the power to exclude a pupil from school. The Headteacher may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. The Headteacher may also exclude a pupil permanently. It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion, if the circumstances warrant this.

If the Headteacher excludes a pupil, s/he informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. At the same time, the Headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the governing body. The school informs the parents how to make any such appeal. The Headteacher informs the LEA and the governing body about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term.

The governing body itself cannot either exclude a pupil or extend the exclusion period made by the Headteacher. The governing body has a discipline committee which is made up of between three and five members. This committee considers any exclusion appeals on behalf of the governors.

When an appeals panel meets to consider an exclusion, they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, consider any representation by parents and the LEA, and consider whether the pupil should be reinstated. If the governors' appeals panel decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the Headteacher must comply with this ruling.

10. Monitoring and Review

Positive Behaviour Policy

The Headteacher monitors the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. S/he also reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements.

The school keeps a variety of records of incidents of misbehaviour. The class teacher records minor classroom incidents. The Headteacher records those incidents where a child is sent to him/her on account of bad behaviour. We also keep a record of any incidents that occur at break or lunchtimes: lunchtime supervisors give written details of any incident in the incidents book that we keep in the staff room.

The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupil who is suspended for a fixed-term, or who is permanently excluded. It is the responsibility of the governing body to monitor the rate of suspensions and exclusions, and to ensure that the school policy is administered fairly and consistently.

The governing body reviews this policy every two years. They governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.