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## **STATEMENT OF BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES**

**(This document is to be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy)**

### **RATIONALE AND PURPOSE**

This statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE guidance (Behaviour and Discipline in Trusts 2012). The purpose of the statement is to provide guidance in drawing up the School Behaviour Policy so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of governors, staff and parents for the pupils in the school as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters. It is intended to help all staff to be aware of and understand the extent of their powers in respect of discipline and sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the support of the headteacher and governors when following this guidance.

This is a statement of principles, not practice. It is the responsibility of the headteacher though she must take account of these principles when formulating this. The Behaviour Policy must be publicised in writing to staff, parents and pupils at least once a year.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The governors of Sholing Infant School strongly believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enables all its pupils to make the best possible progress in all aspects of the school life and work and all staff to be able to teach and promote good learning without undue interruption or harassment.

All pupils and staff have the right to feel safe at all times whilst in the school. There should be mutual respect between staff and pupils and between pupils. All visitors to the school should feel safe and free from the effects of poor behaviour at all times and in all parts of the school. Sholing Infant School is an inclusive school. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort as laid down in the Equality Act 2010. To this end, the school must ensure there is a clear and comprehensive Anti-bullying Policy that is known and understood by all, consistently applied and monitored for its effectiveness. Measures to protect pupils from bullying and discrimination as a result of gender, race, ability, sexual orientation or background should be clearly set out and regularly monitored for their effective implementation.

The school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of safeguarding pupils with special educational needs and all vulnerable pupils should be set out in the Behaviour Policy and made known to all staff. Parents should be encouraged and helped to support their child's education just as the pupils should be helped to understand their responsibilities during their time at school, in the local community and in preparation for their life after leaving the school. The responsibilities of pupils, parents and staff with respect to pupils' behaviour must be outlined in the 'home/school agreement' which pupils and parents must be asked to sign when a pupil joins the school.

The school rules should be clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. These should set out expected standards of behaviour, should be displayed in all the classrooms and other

relevant parts of the school and shared with and explained to all pupils. The governing body expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff and regularly monitored for effectiveness. The governors would like to see a wide range of rewards consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere. These should be made clear in the Behaviour Policy and regularly monitored for their consistent, fair application and effectiveness.

Sanctions for unacceptable or poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and pupils and consistently applied. The full range of sanctions should be clearly described in the Behaviour Policy so that pupils, staff and parents can understand how and when these are applied. The governors strongly feel that exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, must be used only as a very last resort. 'Unofficial' exclusions are illegal and so must be avoided. The headteacher may inform the police as appropriate if there is evidence of a criminal act or if she fears that one may take place e.g. cyber-bullying. Sanctions should be monitored for their proper use and effective impact.

The Behaviour Policy should set out the disciplinary action that will be taken against pupils who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff. The governing body expect the headteacher to draw on the advice in Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other staff guidance document when setting out the pastoral support that trust staff should expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers. Staff so accused should not be automatically suspended pending an investigation. The governing body expect the headteacher to include the following in some detail in the Behaviour Policy:-

- Screening and searching pupils – the reasons for searching pupils should be made explicit together with details of who may search, where such searching should take place, what will happen to any banned items found as a result of such a search and what sanctions will be applied. It should also be made clear that parents do not have to be informed before a search. Governors would be expected authorised staff to be appropriately trained in how to carry out a search.
- The power to use reasonable force or make other physical contact – the situations in which reasonable force may be used including removing disruptive pupils from class or preventing them from leaving should be stated. A definition of 'reasonable force' should be included which should also explain how and when pupils may be restrained. The governing body would expect key relevant staff to be trained in the use of reasonable force and restraint.
- The power to discipline outside the school gates – disciplining beyond the school gates covers the school's response to all non-criminal bad behaviour and bullying that occurs anywhere off the school premises. The governing body must be satisfied in all situations arising that the measures proposed by the headteacher are lawful and that staff and pupils know that sanctions can be applied in these circumstances.