



Behaviour and discipline policy



This policy has been developed with reference to 'Behaviour and discipline in schools' DfE February 2014 and acknowledges the school's legal duties under the Equalities Act, in respect of safeguarding and in respect of pupils with special educational needs

We believe that we promote good behaviour by creating a happy caring school environment where everyone feels valued, respected, secure and free from all forms of anti-social behaviour.

We encourage pupils to achieve in a learning environment where self-discipline is promoted and good behaviour is the norm. We believe pupils will achieve their full potential in a happy, stimulating and ordered school environment.

Pupil voice is sought in all aspects of school life through a variety of discussion groups. Our family ethos prides itself on listening to children and all children are placed in family groups from reception to year 6. The groups are an important school structure that promotes pupil voice and nurtures the social and emotional development of all children. This is particularly used to ensure children are confident to speak out against bullying and support sensitive children.

Aims

- To create an ethos that makes everyone in the school community feel valued and respected.
- To promote good behaviour by forging sound working relationships with everyone involved with the school.
- To promote self-discipline and proper regard for authority among pupils.
- To prevent all forms of bullying among pupils by encouraging good behaviour and respect for others.
- To encourage pupils to show consideration and respect for others through intrinsic rewards of praise and not extrinsic rewards unless there is a serious behaviour problem.

At Leyburn, our ethos is: 'Inspired to be the best that we can be.'

The role of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body has:

- the duty to set the framework of the school's policy and responsibility to ensure that the school complies with this policy;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure that school personnel and pupils are aware of this policy;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- appointed a coordinator for behaviour and discipline to work with the Headteacher;
- the duty to support the Headteacher and school personnel in maintaining high standards of behaviour;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Introduction

At Leyburn Primary School, we aim to create a happy, safe, caring, stimulating and inclusive environment for all. We encourage self-discipline and aim to keep rules and regulations to a minimum. Promoting good behaviour amongst the pupils is a shared responsibility. All those who work with the school, governors, parents, the wider community and the children, have a vital role to play. As members of the school community, all stakeholders should aim to build positive relationships with each other and we expect each individual to respect others, their families, culture and beliefs, as part of the exceptionally high standards of behaviour that we have at Leyburn.

We believe that implementing the principles of Restorative Practice helps us to focus on building better relationships with each other, taking the time to ensure that every member of our school community feels listened to, valued and respected. We support pupils in developing the skills to maintain positive relationships with others and to resolve disagreements and problems themselves. It is our role to educate our pupils to understand how their behaviour affects others and its impact on others. Pupils are supported to identify ways they can put right the harm they have caused. This approach ensures we are not teaching pupils that by harming others they will be punished and should therefore avoid being discovered. Instead, we are helping them to become empathic, considerate people who have the skills to avoid and resolve problems independently.

Aims:

- To develop positive relationships through a restorative approach, which promote self-esteem, self-discipline and which establish clear expectations of all members of the school community.
- Through shared expectations and a consistent approach we aim to promote a harmonious working environment where all can develop their skills of working both independently and co-operatively.
- By creating a sensitive and supportive atmosphere, we want all children to be happy and confident with each other and in their work.
- To establish a partnership approach which draws on all those involved with the school.
- To provide systems which promote positive behaviour and which support all members of the school community.
- Recognise the importance of effective teaching and learning in the promotion of positive behaviour. (Teaching and Learning Policy)
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our relationships and behaviour policy and procedures

Restorative Practices

Being 'Restorative' focuses on building positive relationships based on respect and fairness. In turn this creates a community that is supportive, accountable and respectful. We believe that every individual is responsible for their own behaviour.

The Restorative framework is based upon 'knowing the effect that I have on others'. Making changes to the way we approach incidents and issues provides children, and others, the opportunity to think about how they relate to each other and how they can find positive ways of repairing harm caused, rather than focusing solely on punishing poor behaviour or individuals avoiding taking responsibility for their actions.

Children and adults are encouraged to put things right together. All members of staff are trained in the key principles of RP and we understand the importance of modelling positive language, behaviour and take time to develop positive and meaningful relationships with colleagues and pupils. When positive relationships are developed and connections are made individuals are less likely to cause harm to others or choose to damage relationships.

Positive Behaviours

Our pupils and staff are considerate of each other and our surroundings and always behave in a positive way. The rewards for such behaviour are intrinsic and we recognise that feeling good about something you have done is a very significant reward. We also aim to reinforce positive behaviour with descriptive praise and recognition through rewards such as:

- staff congratulating pupils
- giving children stickers
- house points
- whole class rewards
- Friday certificates
- Head Teacher's award.

We believe that children achieve best when there is a partnership between home and school and this applies particularly to behaviour. We expect parents to support the school in maintaining good discipline, which in turn ensures good learning, by undertaking a home/school agreement as written evidence that they are in agreement. We aim to work with parents and keep them informed at each stage of the policy.

- As far as possible, parents/carers will be informed of achievements so they can share in their child's rewards.
- Staff may use the informal 'chat at the gate' approach or contact parents/carers by telephone.
- Reading records or home-school books are used to send messages home or into school.
- The Parents' Consultations Evenings also provides a forum for discussion.
- Parents may be invited on an individual basis to attend a meeting to discuss strategies for improving their child's behaviour at school.
- Class assemblies, celebrating behaviour and achievements
- Certificates and stickers that children take home

Good discipline is the shared responsibility of all staff. We know that if we expect the children to behave well, the adults in the school must model good behaviour themselves.

We strive to avoid:

- humiliation – it breeds resentment;
- shouting – it diminishes us;

- over reacting – the problem will grow;
- blanket punishment – this is unjust towards the innocent;
- harsh sarcasm;
- threatening children with someone else’s discipline;
- using an area of the curriculum as a punishment (e.g. extra maths or no P.E.);

As part of promoting positive behaviour and providing positive role models, pupils are provided with the opportunities to take on responsibilities within their own class, and across their school. These include, but are not limited to:

- House Captains and Vice-Captains
- Playground leaders;
- Classroom and school wide monitor jobs;
- Digital leaders
- Members of the Green Team;
- Supporting office admin staff to deliver letters/resources.
- Lunchtime Monitor

Children need to know and help set the class rules. Each teacher works with their class to formulate a class charter, detailing a shared set of rights and responsibilities for all members of the class community, both children and adults, to adhere to. Every class takes part in class circles at a time during the week. This time is used to build connections and relationships within the class. During circles, expectations of behaviours are taught and reinforced on a regular basis and on-going throughout the year. The class will develop their own class rules for learning, circles and behaviour. The agreed rules are on display in the classrooms.

Children are therefore encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour; as well as, consider the impact of their actions and behaviour on others. Pupils who follow the rules must have their actions acknowledged and rewarded. Those who do not follow the rules need to know that their actions will not be ignored. Consequences of inappropriate choices will be discussed and decided upon with the pupil and the consequence enforced.

What are our expectations for pupil and adult conduct?

We are proud we have created a well-organised, attractive and stimulating learning environment. We have expectations for the various areas within the school as well as for behaviour during specific 'whole school' activities such as assemblies.

The school environment

Our expectation is that classrooms will be tidy and well organised as this has a positive impact on behaviour. All of us should be proud of our interesting, well-resourced school. It is the responsibility of adults and children alike to maintain our pleasant school by looking after the resources and displays.

Shared areas

Children are expected to walk quietly around the building at all times (especially when passing through areas where other people are working). Children and adults should be keen to hold doors open for others showing politeness and consideration for others.

The playground

At Leyburn, we do not distinguish between the authority of one adult to another, regardless of role (with the exception of the Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and the Headteacher). At lunchtime, children are expected to respect the authority of the adults on duty in the same way that they would with the teaching staff. All children should feel safe outside and must be made aware of the playground rules and the importance of informing a duty adult if they have been hurt, are being bullied or harassed. The adults on duty are responsible for ensuring that a good range of play equipment is available for the children; that they are safe; that the playground rules are being adhered to and that any incidents are being properly dealt with within the restorative framework. Any serious behaviour incidents should be reported to the duty Senior Leadership Team member for further investigation. Additional guidance and rules for break times can be found at Appendices 1 and 2.

The Restorative Approach – Dealing with inappropriate behaviour.

Incidences of negative behaviour are dealt with in a fair, respectful and appropriate way, with the key focus on individuals taking responsibility for their behaviour, repairing any harm done, rebuilding and restoring relationships. The key principle when dealing with issues is to give all the people involved a chance to have their say and become actively involved in the process. All members of staff and children know that issues will be dealt with fairly with a 'no blame' approach.

When there have been incidences between two children key questions will be asked to find out what has happened and how the individuals involved can make things right again, or repair the harm caused. Our aim is not to ask 'Why?' something has happened but to determine what has led up to an issue and resolve it in a positive way. Everyone involved in an incident is taken through a Restorative dialogue and is therefore supported in coming to understand the harm that has been caused to all parties.

The Restorative Questions:

- What happened?
- What do you think and feel about the time and now?

- Who has been affected and how?
- How have they been affected?
- What do you think needs to happen next/to make things right with each other and with the school community?

This approach encourages those involved to identify ways in which a relationship can be repaired or how they can move forward. By giving pupils this responsibility we are supporting them in developing their own strategies for avoiding and resolving conflict. We also believe that if pupils reach their own agreement as to how to move forward after a conflict, they are more likely to abide by it than if it is suggested by an adult or imposed upon them. By involving the pupils in the design of the agreement we give them ownership over it and ensure it is helping them to resolve the situation and make amends in their own way.

All staff working within our school use active listening skills when dealing with a conflict. This enables them to draw out more from those involved.

When using consequences at Leyburn Community Primary School, the child(ren) should always be involved in a Restorative conversation and be an active part of deciding upon any consequences, ensuring they are constructive and allow the child to learn from what has happened, as opposed to a sanction being imposed and the child seeing themselves as the victim of punishment.

They take part of a restorative discussion. We aim to help the children look out at the harm they have caused to others and see that their sanction is a way of putting things right with the person who has been hurt, as well as with the school community, which expects a high standard of good behaviour.

Some children with social, emotional or mental health difficulties require time to calm down and this is an important part of developing a child's self-management skills. 'Time outs' can be offered to children before an incident is dealt with.

In some extreme cases, the consequence may be a fixed-term or permanent exclusion.

At Leyburn we recognise that all children are unique individuals and therefore we are flexible in the manner in which we address any incidences of negative behaviour. The stages of the Restorative Approach underpin our method in dealing with behaviour issues but we are conscious that we adapt our approach to ensure it is suitable for the pupil's age and level of understanding.

When working with pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage our focus is on the initial stages of the Restorative Approach. Staff working with these pupils focus on helping them to grasp the concepts of feelings and how they are caused. Modelling, small group work, peer support and visual resources such as photographs and Communicate in Print cards are all used to support the pupils' understanding and development of empathy.

This approach is also adapted for other pupils throughout the school. Pupils with low levels of emotional maturity or with Special Educational Needs can require support in recognising how their actions have affected others or how they feel about an incident. Pupils are supported in developing their understanding of the Restorative Approach using tailored resources, lessons and at their own pace. Children identified as having significant social, emotional or mental health needs may require an alternative approach, which will be discussed and decided upon by the team around the child on an individual basis.

Staff use their discretion and knowledge of the pupils involved to determine how best to implement this approach and who to involve.

Restrictive Physical Intervention

On rare occasions there are incidences where behaviours severely damage another or compromise the safety of our pupils and adults. In these cases the adults dealing with the issue may choose to implement consequences that could range from, loss of privileges to reporting to the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher for a temporary internal/external exclusion and involving external agencies for behaviour monitoring and support. However, in all situations pupils will be treated within the Restorative Framework so that when they are calm their views are heard and they have the opportunity to take responsibility and repair harm caused.

To fulfil our duty of care to prevent harm, Restrictive Physical Intervention may happen as a last resort, under Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, in any of the following exceptional circumstances, where reasonable, and where all other options have been exhausted:

To prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to:

- a. Commit any offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility (10 years), what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- b. Cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil themselves); or
- c. Prejudice the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Most staff on roll have attended Restrictive Physical Intervention training and are therefore equipped to deal appropriately with a situation where a child may present a danger to themselves, others or property.

Our policy for RPI is 'the minimum degree of intrusion required to resolve the situation, for the minimum amount of time'. RPI will always be carried out with the child's safety and dignity in mind. A sensory room is available in school, and when possible, pupils who have been subject to RPI can be taken to this room for time to become calm and collect their thoughts. Any particular Special Educational Need and/or disability that a pupil might have will be properly taken into

account under the Equalities Act 2010, before any member of staff exercises the power to use force. Where there has been RPI, a record must be made in the Major Incident book (kept in the office) and parents must be informed as soon as practical after the incident.

For more information, please refer to 'Guidance on the use of restrictive physical intervention with children and young people' (September 2012), as issued by North Yorkshire County Council.

1. When a pupil damages property on purpose (belonging to school or to another individual in school)
2. Racist incidents (these also need to be reported separately to the HT)
3. Severe swearing/verbal abuse
4. Incidents in which another individual (child or adult) has been injured/assaulted with proven intent
5. Incidents in which another individual has been injured/ assaulted, the victim reports that this was on purpose, and there is a visible injury, whether or not intent can be proved
6. Incidents relating to ongoing issues with a child that need recording (for example, incidents between two children that are not up to the level of assault, but give extra evidence and a broader picture for multi-agency meetings, etc. Alternatively, a child may have confided that they are being bullied, and any incidents between them and the 'bully' should be logged).

It is up to the judgement of the class teacher based on their knowledge of the children whether to record when the victim claims intent, the perpetrator claims accident, and there are no other witnesses.

If any of points 1-6 occur during lunchtime, the MSA involved should report this to a member of teaching staff.

Points 1-5 must always be reported to parents/carers. The method used is up to the discretion of the class teacher and it is their responsibility to follow through both with communication, consequences in line with the restorative framework and log this (or Duty SLT member if it is related to a lunchtime incident).

Exclusion

The Governing Body has decided that if we experience extreme anti-social or violent behaviour that exclusion will be used as a sanction either as a:

- fixed term or
- permanent exclusion

Curriculum Support

We aim to teach children the importance of forming good relationships and equip them with the skills to do this. We have high expectations of the children and believe that they should behave because it is the right thing to do and not because they believe there will be a material benefit. However, the school has a number of ways of rewarding good behaviour, for both groups and individuals, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and cooperation.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) lessons, Circle Time, school assemblies, out-of school experiences and after school clubs also contribute to the pupil's understanding and competency in managing conflict. Discrete PSHE lessons are taught to ensure all pupils understand the key stages of the Restorative Approach and have the required skills to be able to resolve issues with adult support or independently, where appropriate.

Outside Agencies

We have invaluable support for pupils who demonstrate persistent poor behaviour from the:

- educational psychologist;
- educational welfare officer;
- school health nurse
- Social Services
- EMS Bedale

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