

Governors' statement of behaviour principles

Date: 06.09.25

Rationale and purpose

The Department for Education requires governing bodies of maintained schools to publish a statement of behaviour principles for their school. The Governing Board therefore has a duty to produce, and review, a written statement of general principles to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour. The document [Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: Guidance for Governing Bodies](#) (Department for Education, September 2015) has been used as a reference in producing this Statement of Behaviour Principles.

This is a statement of principles; for practice, see other policies (eg the Positive Relationships Policy) which take into account the principles set out here and other national guidance (eg [Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff, Department for Education](#), February 2024).

The vision for Sphere Federation schools is for them to be *happy and healthy places to learn or, at St James' CE Primary, happy and healthy place to achieve and believe*. The principles set out here support this.

Safeguarding is a priority in Sphere Federation schools. The principles set out here support safeguarding.

Principles

- Sphere Federation governors believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school; good behaviour enables pupils to enjoy and achieve in all aspects of their school life.
- Governors expect to see bullying, and perceptions of bullying, taken seriously.
- Every child has the right to learn; no child has the right to disrupt the learning of others.
- Scholes (Elmet) Primary, St James' CE Primary and Moortown Primary are inclusive schools; all members of the school communities should be free from discrimination of any sort.
- All members of the school communities have the right to feel and be safe at all times at school; they must be protected from disruption, abuse or bullying.
- All members of the school communities have the right to be listened to and to be valued.
- All adults – staff, volunteers and governors – will set excellent examples to the children at all times.
- The federation's Positive Relationships Policy, which includes its Anti-Bullying Policy, will clearly set out school rules; governors expect these rules to be consistently applied by all staff.
- Governors expect to see a range of rewards, consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good choices and good behaviour.
- Similarly, governors expect to see the Positive Relationships Policy consistently, fairly applied where children are demonstrating poor or unacceptable choices and behaviour, including bullying, and that consequences are known and understood by staff and pupils; this will include the use of exclusion.
- Governors expect leaders to have a clear definition of bullying, and that, if bullying should arise, actions to address incidents of bullying are employed comprehensively and sensitively so that targets of bullying are protected and supported, and that their parents'/carers' perspective is also considered.
- Governors expect leaders to commit to ensuring that we support all children to demonstrate a positive and learning focused approach around bullying, and in particular where there are instances of bullying in their class or friendship group.
- The federation's policies will include guidance on the use of screening and searching pupils; the use of reasonable force; the power to discipline beyond the school gate; and pastoral care for staff accused of misconduct.
- Governors wish to emphasise that violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by pupils or parents/carers towards the schools' staff will not be tolerated.
- Where there are significant concerns over a pupil's behaviour, the Sphere Federation school will work with parents to strive for common strategies between home and school.
- The schools may seek advice and support from appropriate outside agencies where concerns arise over a child's behaviour.
- The schools will fulfil legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of safeguarding, children with special educational needs and all vulnerable children.
- The schools will keep abreast of current issues and initiatives with regard to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and related regulations.
- With reference to St James' CE Primary only, Sphere Federation governors will include reference to the school's vision and Christian values as a way to enhance behaviour principles.