



## **St. Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit**

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

Review of Policy	October 2024
Ratification of Policy by the Board of Governors	November 2024
Next Review Date	November 2027

## **RATIONALE**

St. Mary's Primary School is a caring community and we believe that rewarding good behaviour and providing encouragement promotes a climate of consideration for others and encourages good behaviour rather than merely deterring negative behaviour. Teachers will reward incidents of good/positive behaviour and record/report improved behaviour or unacceptable behaviour to the Vice Principal or Principal.

At St. Mary's Primary School we follow these Golden Rules:

1. We listen.
2. We look after property.
3. We work hard.
4. We are kind.
5. We are honest.
6. We are gentle.

## **AIMS OF THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

- To ensure that every member of the school community feels valued and respected.
- To support the way in which all members of this school community can live and work together in an environment that is happy, safe and secure and where effective learning can take place.
- To promote teaching and learning through the building of good relationships based on mutual respect and consideration for others.
- To help children grow in a safe, happy and secure environment and become positive, responsible and independent members of the community.
- To reward good behaviour and provide encouragement and stimulation to all pupils.
- To treat all children fairly and apply this policy in a consistent way.
- To ensure that children are aware of school rules and the 'Code of Conduct'.
- To teach, through the school curriculum, values and attitudes as well as knowledge and skills, in order to promote responsible behaviour, self-discipline and respect for self, others and the world around us.

## **A POSITIVE APPROACH**

Pupils will be rewarded for **positive behaviour**. We use a positive system of rewards, which include:

- Verbal praise
- Positive comments in books
- The use of stars/smiley faces on charts, books etc.
- Exhibiting good work in class or corridor
- Celebrating learning on the school website
- Implementation of the 'Golden Rules' and 'Golden Time' Approach
- Special mention in class or at Assembly
- Informal referral or recommendation to another teacher, Co-ordinator, Vice Principal or Principal

## **PUPIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

All pupils at St. Mary's Primary School have the right to an education which offers them every opportunity to attain their full potential (*United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 28*). The Principal, Teaching Staff and Support Staff are here to create the circumstances to allow this to happen. Governors, parents and the wider community also assist in this process.

In order for this to be achieved it is essential that **every member** of the school community acknowledges and reflects the values promoted by the school:

- Respect self, fellow pupils, teachers and other adults
- Respect own and other people's property
- Be courteous, well-mannered and well-behaved
- Be honest, trusting and hard-working
- Take responsibility for words and actions
- Be friendly and co-operative
- Show tolerance towards others

## **PUPIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

**As a pupil, I will:-**

- come to school on time
- be prepared, do my homework and bring all the books and items I need to school
- do my work to the best of my ability
- work well with others in my group
- do as my teacher or supervisor asks
- not shout, swear or use bad language
- walk inside school buildings
- take care of my books and school equipment
- help to look after the school buildings and grounds
- not steal, fight or bully
- wear my school uniform with pride.

**As a pupil, I know that the following behaviour is unacceptable:**

- physical violence, bullying, threatening behaviour
- using bad language
- being disruptive in class, in the Canteen, when lining up, in the playground or in the corridor or anywhere on the school premises.

## **CONSEQUENCES IN RELATION TO POOR/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR**

Failure to abide by the principles of the Pupil Code of Conduct or to obey school rules may result in the following punishments or sanctions being applied:

- The pupil will be told by the Class Teacher that his/her behaviour is unacceptable, given the opportunity to discuss the situation and will be encouraged to modify that behaviour. The pupil's behaviour will be recorded by the Class Teacher and, if necessary, be reported to the parent/guardian.
- Disruptive behaviour in class/school may result in:
  - a child being seated at a single desk, near the teacher;
  - a child being asked to work for a short time in another classroom;
  - a child being asked to sit and reflect on actions;

- a child being asked to explain actions to the Vice Principal or Principal where evidence has been found of a misdemeanour;
- exclusion from selection for an event outside of school;
- exclusion from a school-organised outing or trip;
- arrangement for the parent(s) or carer(s) to take a pupil home at lunchtime - and then return to school - for a block of one, two or more weeks;
- implementation of a reduced school day for a block of one, two or more weeks, in partnership with parents until improvements are in evidence.
- The pupil's behaviour will be recorded by the Class Teacher and, if necessary, be reported to the Vice Principal. The pupil will be told that his/her behaviour is unacceptable, given the opportunity to discuss the situation and will be encouraged to modify that behaviour. If necessary, the unacceptable behaviour will be reported to the parent/guardian.
- The pupil's behaviour will be recorded by the Class Teacher and, if necessary, be reported to the Principal. The pupil will be told that his/her behaviour is unacceptable, given the opportunity to discuss the situation and will be encouraged to modify that behaviour. If necessary, the unacceptable behaviour will be reported to the parent/guardian.
- Withdrawal of privileges may be applied. These will be appropriate to the situation and the age of the child and parents will be informed as necessary. Care will be taken not to jeopardise the delivery of the curriculum.
- Persistent disregard for school rules, or a behaviour that is deemed unacceptable or dangerous – whether in the classroom, canteen, playground or school environment - will result in a supervised playtime or lunchtime 'time out'. These incidents will be monitored and parents/carers will be informed and invited to speak to the teacher and/or Vice Principal or Principal after 3 incidences. If no improvement in behaviour or attitude is evident, the pupil will be placed on a daily report, so that behaviour can be closely monitored and parents will be informed.
- All failures to comply with policy will be documented and, after consultation with parents and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, the child may be placed on the Special Needs Register for 'Social, Behavioural, Emotional Well-being Needs' or the school may seek advice or assistance from other professionals e.g. Educational Welfare Officer, Educational Psychologist, SBEW Support Team.
- Extremely serious misconduct may result in suspension or expulsion under the terms set out by the Department of Education/Education Authority.  
The following are regarded by the Department and the Education Authority as valid reasons for suspension or expulsion:
  - Disruptive behaviour in class
  - Persistent bullying of a pupil
  - Physical attack on a pupil or member of staff
  - Verbal abuse of a pupil or member of staff
  - Persistent infringements of relatively minor school rules
  - Significant damage to school, staff or pupils' property, either in or outside school.
  - A very serious problem may result in the normal procedures being abandoned and a parent(s) being requested to take a child home straight away.

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

Parents have a vital role to play in their children's education. It is very important that they support their child's learning and co-operate with the school. Parents are asked to reinforce the standard of behaviour and discipline expected in St. Mary's PS. If the values encouraged in school are also given credence at home, then this consistency creates the kind of environment where growing and learning can effectively take place. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child's progress or any other issue of concern they may have. To accommodate parents in this, and to ensure they receive an adequate period of

uninterrupted time, parents are asked to contact the school and make an appointment to meet the child's Teacher and/or Vice Principal or Principal.

## **THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS**

The Governors have endorsed this policy and, with the Principal, will review its effectiveness. They will ensure that the Policy is administered fairly and consistently. This Positive Behaviour Policy will be reviewed and updated regularly.

## **SUPPORTING POLICIES**

While all policies and procedures within the school take cognisance of the pastoral care of pupils and staff, some specifically support it in particular ways:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection
- Health and Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Drugs Policy
- Acceptable use of the Internet

*All of these policies are available upon request.*