

Positive Relationships, Behaviour and Attendance Policy

This policy is based on the understanding of the effect of positive behaviour on the personal, social and academic development of children; the learning environment and the ethos of the classroom and the school as a whole.

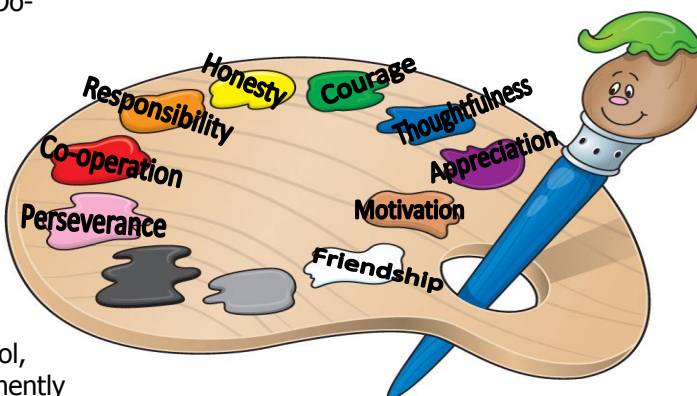
The emphasis is on the positive aspects of good behaviour, the value of giving all children clear expectations and achievable targets and an appropriate focus on developing self-discipline.

"Research has shown a strong link between a child's self esteem and academic success. Those who feel good about themselves learn more easily and retain information longer. In fact, they do better in every way: if they have a sense of well-being they are much more likely to be able to handle the ups and downs of everyday life" - MURRAY WHITE, International Council for Self Esteem

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Core Values

Our core values are expressed succinctly on our paint palette. These are values we believe as important for developing every individual in our school, and were agreed with staff, governors, parents and children. The values provide a code for positive behaviour. They form a clear expectation of behaviour in class and around school, promoting positive relationships between every member of our school, children and adults alike. The values are displayed prominently in every classroom and around school, and also form a focus for school assemblies.



Statement of Intent

Our behaviour policy is built around our belief that good relationships are central to the success of our school as a learning community. The relationships between pupils, staff and parents needs to be positive, supportive and respectful. Within those relationships, there are shared rights and responsibilities.

At Priory Junior School the staff and governors firmly believe that the social and self development of children is as important as their educational progress.

In order to achieve this all round development, children have the right to:

- maximise their learning potential
- be safe
- be treated with respect
- be listened to
- play, work and learn in a happy, creative and safe environment
- come to school without fear of being bullied or harassed.
- a sense of belonging

Teachers and Staff have the right to:

- be able to teach without hindrance
- feel safe
- be supported by colleagues, parents and the wider community
- be treated with respect
- be listened to

All parents/carers have the right to:

- know their children are safe, well-taught, cared for and happy.

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Children at Priory Junior School have the responsibility to:

- behave respectfully to others
- behave in a way which keeps themselves and others safe
- attend school regularly
- be willing to learn
- allow others to learn
- co-operate with teachers and peers
- do their best

Teachers at Priory Junior School have the responsibility to:

- enable all children to learn
- seek out and celebrate improvements in learning
- treat children with respect
- create a positive classroom environment
- ask for and offer support when needed
- model positive behaviours
- seek information and use lines of communication
- follow the school's systems to promote positive behaviour

Our Aims

- develop self-confidence and self-esteem in pupils
- recognise and promote positive behaviour and good attendance displayed by our pupils
- raise the level of behaviour beyond acceptable to positive
- respond to negative and unacceptable behaviour and poor attendance
- encourage a partnership between pupils, parents/carers and staff, which involves working together to maintain positive behaviour
- to encourage a positive learning environment – where pupils and staff regardless of social background, race, gender or ability, are respected and encouraged to achieve their full potential educationally, emotionally, socially and physically
- underpin the school ethos

Achieving Our Aims

We will:

- reinforce the expectations for behaviour through the School's Values and positive behaviour management language
- establish clear routines in the classroom and around school
- develop positive relationships
- teach children the language of sharing and co-operation, choice and consequences
- set incentives and give rewards
- provide an attractive and stimulating environment for the children to learn in.
- motivate children through high-quality learning experiences
- listen to children and involve them fully in school-life, through Class Forums and School Council
- use a restorative approach to discipline which develops the children's ability to take responsibility for their actions and ensures they put things right for all involved.

Recognising Achievements and Positive Behaviour

Children's self-esteem is developed through the strategies used to recognise their achievements. It also reinforces their positive behaviour. At Priory Junior School, we recognise achievements and positive behaviour by:

Achievement Certificates

A merit chart in their Log Book allows children to achieve a Bronze, Silver and Gold Achievement Certificate. These are awarded in our weekly Sharing Assemblies.

Golden Ticket

Recognising the values on our palette, children displaying these are awarded Golden Tickets by all members of staff. A prize draw of the tickets earned takes place each week in our Sharing Assembly.

Class Treat Time

Children earn marbles in the jar in each class. When the jar is full, they are rewarded with a class Treat Time.

Headteacher's Award

Children are recognised for specific achievements during a week in our Sharing Assembly.

Headteacher's Stickers

Children with good work may be sent to share this with the Headteacher.

Lunchtime Top Table

Midday Supervisors recognise positive behaviour through stickers. They also choose children to attend top table for a week at lunchtime, for demonstrating the School's Values during lunchtime.

100% Attendance Tea Party and Certificate

Rewarded to children on a termly basis.

All recognition of achievement is:

- genuinely earned
- genuinely motivate
- sincerely given
- consistently and fairly given

Restorative Discipline

At Priory Junior School, restorative discipline is used to hold children to account for inappropriate behaviour, and repair any harm they have caused. It is recognised that this sits within a positive framework and so, is used in conjunction with a wide range of positive classroom management strategies. Appendix 1 explains this approach in more detail.

This approach to discipline may range from a short 'corridor/classroom conference' to challenge unacceptable behaviour to a 'restorative conference' where conflict between pupils has occurred. Sometimes, a formal conference may involve parents too.

If a child refuses to engage with a restorative approach, or a child has lied, and/or consistently broken agreements made, the school will employ more traditional sanctions.

These may initially be the loss of free time eg. break / lunchtimes. The Headteacher will be informed if this takes place and the class teacher will put in place strategies to prevent a re-occurrence of this behaviour. If a child loses 3 sessions of free time, the class teacher will inform their parents and discuss their behaviour with them. A meeting will also take place between the teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership Team to agree additional strategies.

Movement Around School

All children are expected to move around the school in a calm and orderly way. All staff have a responsibility for ensuring sensible behaviour around school and on the playground. Whether on duty or not, all staff will intervene/challenge unacceptable behaviour. At the end of breaks and lunchtimes, all staff will be present on the playground, ready to supervise children lining up and returning to class.

Lunchtimes

It is essential that children feel safe and respected in the more unstructured environment of the school playground at break and lunchtimes. Activities are arranged for children to take part, alongside the provision of playtime equipment. Older children are trained as Play Leaders and take responsibility for organising games for children in Years 3 and 4. Children with additional needs may have access to a teaching assistant to support them through playtimes, including attendance at our Play Club.

Midday supervisors record significant incidents in their book, these are dated and more serious incidents are reported to the class teacher at the end of lunchtimes. The recording by the midday supervisors allow certain children's or groups of children's behaviour to be monitored.

Midday supervisors use stickers and top table to promote and reward positive behaviour. They also use a restorative discipline approach.

Positive comments are shared in the weekly meetings. The midday supervisors receive training on a regular basis, and as part of their induction.

Serious or Persistent Negative Behaviour

A pupil who displays persistent or serious negative behaviour will follow an individual programme with targets, incentives and a clear hierarchy of sanctions tailored to the individual needs of the child. This will be agreed by the class teacher, SENCO, Headteacher and parents/carers of the pupil.

Outside agencies may become involved to provide additional support to staff / child / families.

There are a range of behaviours which are totally unacceptable – these include bullying, racism and violence. While we are guided by restorative principles, it is also the case that serious cases of unacceptable behaviour may lead to an exclusion. In these situations, the County's Policy and Procedure for exclusions will be followed. Alternatives may be tried in these cases, depending on the behaviour, which may include the use of internal exclusions. Staff will be redirected to support children in these instances. Internal and external exclusions are decided upon by the Headteacher.

Behaviour Off Site

The school recognises the importance of pupils' behaving responsibly off site too. Where reports are made of children's behaviour on the journey to and from school, these will be investigated. Parents and children, who travel on the school bus, will be asked to sign a code of conduct with the school.

Where children's behaviour on school trips compromises the safety of themselves or others participating on the trip, they may be excluded from subsequent school trips. If the trip is residential, it may be necessary to move rooms. If the behaviour is serious, parents may be telephoned to collect their children immediately. Where behaviour at school provides a reason to be concerned about a pupil participating in a residential or day trip, a risk assessment for the pupil will be completed and considered in relation to the child's participation. The aim will be to include wherever possible, but to consider the strategies needed to enable this to take place. The risk assessment will always inform the decision.

Links With The Curriculum

There are very close links with Personal, Social and Health Education and working with pupils on aspects of self-discipline, rights and responsibilities will form part of the PSHE programme throughout the whole school. Throughout the school, all classes hold a weekly circle time, whereby the principles of listening, empathy and solution finding are developed. Some children may require extra support, through work in support groups, and/or play club.

There will also be cross-curricular links with Religious Education, at times, and with English - as any work on behaviour will involve speaking and listening, discussing and possibly, reading, writing and drama.

Equal Opportunities

The behaviour policy applies to all pupils, regardless of ability, gender, race or creed.

Links With Support Services

There are strong links with the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and the County Learning Support Teacher and Learning Support Assistants, the school's Education Welfare Officer, the Educational Psychologist, CAMH (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) and Social Services, when appropriate. When support is needed, referrals may be made to these services. Where the need may be more complex, a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) will be completed with the parent and discussed at the locality's LARM (Locality Agency Referral Meetings) meetings.

Training is provided to staff on a regular basis. Where individual needs arise, staff may be provided with additional support through the Access For Learning team, or through Leading Behaviour Teachers in the county. New members of staff will receive training, with regard to this policy, as part of their induction. Supply teachers are made aware of this policy through the Supply Teachers Information pack.

Parents, who require support, may be referred to the Family Workers in the locality team. The school signposts parents to support groups that are held by the locality team.

Pupils who are at risk of exclusion, or experiencing emotional difficulties, will receive weekly support from the school's Inclusion Worker. Pupils offered this support are decided upon by the Headteacher and SENCO.

Provision of appropriate materials, advice and visits is also available from agencies such as Health Promotion and Cambs. Constabulary.

Attendance

The DfE guidelines recognise that attendance and positive behaviour should be equally valued and considered as part of the same approach. Regular attendance and good punctuality are not only fundamental to maximising achievement and obtaining the greatest benefit from education, but are also key skills for adult life.

We aim to:

- Ensure staff are clear about their role in promoting attendance
- Parents / carers and children are encouraged to understand the importance of attendance and punctuality for successful learning – through newsletters, parent's evenings, termly update reports
- Teachers are clear about attendance codes and record them accurately in registers
- A system is in place to ensure attendance data is accurate and regularly analysed
- The school regularly and consistently pursues reasons for non-attendance
- First-day absences are followed up each morning.
- The school works closely with the Education Welfare Officer where there are issues of poor attendance
- Requests for holidays are usually declined, but always considered in light of children's attendance and whether any request has an exceptional reason.
- Excellent attendance is celebrated

Publication

The behaviour leaflet is sent out to parents and children each year. It is also summarised in the School Prospectus. This policy is available through the school website.

Review and Monitoring

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and governors to ensure and promote consistency of practice. This will be achieved by:

- Discussion with staff, parents and pupils to ensure clarity about the implementation of the policy
- Monitoring restorative conference resolutions
- Monitoring of positive behaviour management and modelled behaviour by adults
- Monitoring the use / rate of exclusions
- Classrooms open for colleagues to see each other's practice

This policy applies to The BASE, our Out-of-School Club provision.

Other Relevant Policies

This policy is linked to the following policies: Anti-Bullying Policy, SEND Policy, Physical Intervention Policy, Equality Scheme, County Exclusion Guidance and Procedures, School Values and Aims

Written February 2007
Revised November 2009
Re-written July 2011
Revised July 2015

This policy will be reviewed at any time that it is considered appropriate and at the latest by: Summer 2018.

Restorative Approaches

A restorative approach is very different to the traditional way that schools have dealt with wrong doing. First of all, children must tell the truth and own up to what they have done. Then the approach is different in the way it develops the child's thought processes and the expectation that they take responsibility for their actions and repair the harm caused.

Traditional

What's happened?

Who's to blame?

How should we punish them?

Restorative

What's happened?

becomes Who's been harmed and in what way?

becomes What needs to happen in order to put things right and ensure this never happens again?

Where a child is behaving in isolation in an unacceptable way, a framework of questions is used to amend their behaviour:

What happened?

What were you thinking?

What needs to happen to put things right?

What are you going to do differently next time?

These questions become a little more searching where conflict between parties has arisen.

Where harm has been caused to someone else, a restorative meeting following an incident brings together the harmed and the wrong doer. Both sides are able to talk about the incident and together, they negotiate what needs to happen to repair the harm and agree how we can ensure that it does not happen again. All staff are trained to work in this way. Two members of staff are trained to carry out formal restorative conferences involving adults and children.

Restorative approaches range from a quick 'restorative chat' in a corridor right up to a full community conference in which there could be many people involved. Circle times enable children to learn skills of listening, empathy and solution finding, which are the skills necessary to take part in a restorative meeting.

A restorative approach is highly effective because it:

Transforms wrong doing into a learning opportunity

Supports the needs of the 'harmed'

Creates obligations and support for 'wrongdoers'

Encourages a school-wide culture of mutual respect and care