

# COGNITA



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

# Behaviour Policy

## SEPTEMBER 2020

**All students will benefit from learning and developing in a well-ordered school environment that fosters and rewards good behaviour and sanctions poor and disruptive behaviour.**

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This policy is designed to foster a school ethos that promotes high quality teaching and learning in an environment of respect and collaboration. The implementation of this policy supports the fair and transparent treatment of all students.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all students including those in the Early Years.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 We are required to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students and staff and take great pride in the behaviour and conduct of all our students. We provide a safe and affirming place for children where they can develop a sense of belonging and feel able to trust and talk openly with adults about their problems.
- 2.2 In keeping with Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014/British School Overseas Standards (as amended), our policy outlines our code of conduct for students, as well as the use of sanctions and rewards to ensure our high standards are maintained. We have a duty to ensure arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 2.3 The Principal is responsible for developing this policy within the framework set by Cognita as proprietor. Staff have the power to discipline students for misbehaviour which occurs in school and, in some circumstances, outside of school. This means that the Principal decides and sets the standard of behaviour expected of all students in our school. This includes how the standards will be achieved, the school rules, any sanctions for breaking the rules, and rewards for good behaviour. The measures in our policy aim to promote good behaviour, self-discipline and respect, and ensure that students complete assigned work and regulate conduct.
- 2.4 This policy also refers to our approach towards managing any bullying behaviour and our school strategies to prevent all forms of bullying. To this end, we also hold an Anti-Bullying Policy, which is available on our website.
- 2.5 This policy takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of students, as outlined in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, our general duty to eliminate discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, as well as our support for students with special educational needs and/or disability.
- 2.6 If any student's behaviour is considered by the Principal to be criminal or to pose a serious threat to a member of the public, then it will always be reported to the relevant police authority. If any misbehaviour is considered to be linked to any child suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm, then our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures will be rigorously followed and action will be taken in accordance with the relevant local safeguarding children's board referral procedures. *If any child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately.*
- 2.7 We publish our policy for parents, students and staff. It can be found on our website. We review this policy at least annually. This policy is referred to in our parent contracts accordingly.
- 2.8 We support children at times when difficult events happen in their lives, such as domestic violence, bullying, accidents, transition, loss of friendships, divorce and separation, loss and

bereavement. This helps to build coping strategies and build resilience, which helps to prevent mental health problems from occurring later in life.

2

### **3 Applicability**

3.1 Good behaviour is essential for effective learning to take place. Our school policy presents a fair, consistent and transparent approach towards behaviour management, which combines appropriate discipline with support and encouragement delivered within our caring school environment.

3.2 We work in partnership with our parents, students and staff to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. Our written policy reflects this approach in that we balance discipline and sanctions with a strong commitment to encouraging and supporting positive behaviour.

3.3 To this end, we have an ethos of setting high expectations for all students with consistently applied support. We expect our staff, parents/guardians and students to understand and respect the rules of the school and the expectations and responsibilities outlined in this policy. We expect both staff and parents/guardians to model positive behaviour at all times so that our students can benefit fully from their experiences in school.

3.4 It is important that our staff follow this policy at all times to ensure that it is implemented consistently and effectively. We understand that this will ensure that our students feel they have been treated fairly compared to others.

3.5 We do not permit the use of corporal punishment, nor the threat of any such punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being, during any activity, whether on or off the school premises, under any circumstances.

3.6 Should any child display severe emotional, behavioural and social difficulties, it is our role to support them to be resilient and mentally healthy and to ensure that all children are properly included in the educational experiences and opportunities provided and that the learning of their peers is not impeded.

- 3.7 Children who are mentally healthy have the ability to:
- develop psychologically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually
  - initiate, develop and sustain mutually satisfying personal relationships
  - use and enjoy solitude
  - become aware of others and empathise with them
  - play and learn
  - develop a sense of right and wrong; and
  - resolve (face) problems and setbacks and learn from them.

3.8 Where severe problems occur, we expect the child to receive external support, as well as support in school at an early stage, such as via the Common Assessment Framework and early help services, from medical professionals working in specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), voluntary organisations and local GPs. We will identify whether individual students might be suffering from a diagnosable mental health problem and involve their parents and the student in considering why they behave in certain ways. We will intervene early and help to strengthen resilience before serious problems occur, using national and local agencies to support students, using evidence-based approaches.

- 3.9 Staff work closely with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to ensure we have a good understanding of the mental health support services available in our locality, both through the NHS and voluntary organisations.

## **4 Definitions and Scope**

### **4.1 School Provision**

Good schools encourage good behaviour through a mixture of high expectations, clear policy and an ethos which fosters discipline and mutual respect between students, and between staff and students. Our school provides:

- A committed senior leadership team that sets a culture within the school that values all students; allows them to feel a sense of belonging; and makes it possible to talk about problems in a non-stigmatising way
- Staff who understand about the protective factors that enable children to be resilient when they encounter problems and challenges
- An effective strategic role for the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), ensuring all adults working in the school understand their responsibilities to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including students whose persistent mental health difficulties mean they need special educational provision. Specifically, the SENCO will ensure colleagues understand how the school identifies and meets students' needs, provide advice and support to colleagues as needed and liaise with external SEND professionals as necessary
- Working with parents and guardians as well as with the students themselves, ensuring their views, wishes and feelings are taken into account and that they are kept fully informed so they can participate in decisions taken about them
- Continuous professional development for staff to inform them about the early signs of mental health problems, and what to do if they think they have spotted a developing problem
- Clear systems and processes to help staff who identify children and young people with possible mental health problems; providing routes to escalate issues with clear referral and accountability systems. We work closely with other professionals to have a range of support services that can be put in place depending on the identified needs (both within and beyond the school). These are set out clearly in our published SEND Policy:
- Working with others to provide interventions for students with mental health problems that use a graduated approach to inform a clear cycle of support: an assessment to establish a clear analysis of the pupil's needs; a plan to set out how the pupil will be supported; action to provide that support; and regular reviews to assess the effectiveness of the provision and lead to changes where necessary; and
- A healthy school approach to promoting the health and wellbeing of all students in the school, with priorities identified and a clear process of 'planning, doing and reviewing' to achieve the desired outcomes.

### **4.2 Consistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviour can be an indication of an underlying problem.**

Only medical professionals should make a formal diagnosis of a mental health condition. We are well-placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be suffering from a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. This may include withdrawn students whose needs may otherwise go unrecognised. We do this by making effective use of data so that changes in attainment, attendance or behaviour can be noticed, recorded, and acted upon. We also have an effective pastoral system so that at least one member of staff knows every student well and can spot changing patterns and early signs.

4.3 The quality of learning, teaching and behaviour are inseparable issues and are the responsibility of all staff.

4.4 We will support students with medical needs and be fully aware of any medication that children are taking, including supporting any Individual Health Care Plans.

4.5 School Principles:

- School staff and students should all show respect for one another.
- Good behaviour should be rewarded and sanctions should always be applied consistently for unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and violence.
- Appropriate action should be taken to reduce the risk of poor behaviour occurring, including particular action to prevent a disproportionate number of behaviour issues arising amongst vulnerable groups of students, such as those with special educational needs.
- Students whose behaviour and attendance may deteriorate through events such as bereavement, abuse, or through the divorce or separation of parents should be identified and supported.
- All students should be listened and responded to.
- All students are entitled to learn in a safe and secure environment.
- Students should act as appropriate ambassadors for the school on, for example, school trips, work placements, sports events and journeys to and from the school.
- All school staff should model positive behaviour and promote it through active development of students' social, emotional and behavioural skills; and
- All members of the school community should understand and accept the principles on which the Behaviour Policy is grounded.
  
- The Sixth Form students and especially the Leadership team will act as role models and ambassadors for the whole school community from Preparatory to Senior.

## **5 Procedures and Responsibilities**

5.1 Behaviour is the way we act and respond to people and to situations in which we find ourselves. Our aim is that all of our children should be able to behave in socially acceptable ways.

5.2 Staff have authority in our school to discipline children for misbehaviour which occurs in school and this power applies to all paid staff with responsibility for children, unless the Principal says otherwise.

5.3 To be socially acceptable, we believe that children should be able to:

- treat other children and adults with respect
- speak politely to other people; and
  
- have self-confidence and high self-esteem.

5.4 To encourage this, the staff will:

- treat all children and adults with respect
- speak politely to other people
- praise children's efforts and achievements as often as they can
- explain to children what they should have done or said when they get it wrong
- tell parents about their child's efforts and achievements; and
  
- avoid using critical or sarcastic language.

5.5 We will not accept the following behaviour from children or adults:

- use of unkind or rude language

- hitting, kicking, biting or other such physical responses; or
- racist or sexist remarks, or other discriminatory comments.

5.6 If such behaviour occurs:

- We will tell the child that it is wrong and explain what they should have done or said, or not said.
- If the behaviour is repeated, the child will be reprimanded once more as above.
- If the behaviour continues, we will remove the child from the activity and speak to the parent when the child is collected; and
- We will try to find out why the child is behaving in this way and then treat the situation accordingly.

5.7 The role of the teacher

- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that the school Code of Conduct is enforced in their class, and that their classes behave in a responsible manner during lesson time.
- Any incidents of anti-social behaviour will be discussed by the teacher with the class, e.g. during circle or pastoral time.
- Every teacher enforces the classroom code consistently and treats each student fairly.
- If a student misbehaves repeatedly in class, the teacher keeps a record of all such incidents, dealing with the matter themselves in the first instance; however, if the behaviour continues, they should seek help and advice from the senior member of staff , including, where relevant, a conversation with the parent/guardian to seek improvements and the use of appropriate strategies.
- The teacher reports to parents/guardians about the progress of each student for whom they are responsible, in line with our school policy. The teacher may also contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of any student.
- An incident form is used to record in detail any incident involving a child or anyone employed in the school which results in personal injury or damage to property. These include loss or theft, deliberate damage and any other serious incident. These are reported to the Principal and parents/guardians. We record all details fully and accurately. Incident forms are kept in school and records are maintained in the child's personal file and the incident book.
- Obey all health and safety regulations in classrooms and around the school, including helping to keep the school clear of clutter and litter.
- Never make racist, sexist, homophobic or other abusive or humiliating remarks.
- Never resort to physical violence.
- The use of reasonable force may be used exceptionally and only to prevent injury to students, damage to property or to prevent students committing an offence. Only the minimum is used and a critical incident is recorded. Please see our separate policy on the Use of Reasonable Force for further details.
- We have powers to search included within the Education Act 2011 to tackle cyberbullying, including, where necessary, deletion of inappropriate images or files on electronic devices including mobile phones. We use this power under the specific authority of the Principal only and where there is good reason to do so, i.e. that it could be used to harm children, disrupt teaching or break the school rules. We do not search students in a blanket way; and
- Comply fully with the Staff Code of Conduct, including the Acceptable Use of ICT Policy.

5.8 Expectations of students in our school

- Arrive on time to lessons/classes with all the equipment needed for the lesson.
- Listen respectfully when the teacher is giving instructions.

- Follow instructions promptly and accurately.
- Follow the teacher's instructions about moving around the classroom.
- Treat others with respect and consideration at all times.
- Dress cleanly and neatly in the specified uniform for the activity.
- Obey all health and safety regulations in classrooms and around the school including helping to keep the school clear of clutter and litter.
- Move sensibly and calmly around the buildings and grounds.
- Never make racist, sexist or other abusive or humiliating remarks.
- Never resort to physical violence; and
- Comply fully with the Digital Safety Agreements.
- Our Sixth form will be expected to keep all their social areas and clean and tidy at all times. Failure to do this will result in various areas being closed for a period of time.

## 6 Policy

### 6.1 Our rewards

All staff are expected to praise, reward and sanction consistently.

#### Nursery and Reception

Students are given house points and stickers for good work.

Students share their work with other teachers and the Head of Preparatory Division.

Students in Nursery are nominated for the Worker of the Week award. Work is displayed in the entrance area and recipients receive a certificate which is displayed alongside the work. Students may also receive recognition for achievements outside school sent in by parents. This is then celebrated as a group with the Head of the Preparatory Division regularly.

Students' good behaviour is recognised by staff which earns them the opportunity to be given responsibility roles the following day.

Students in Reception are nominated for the Head of Preparatory Division's Award by their class teacher. Recipients are rewarded by receiving a certificate in a weekly assembly.

Students can be given a Value Bead for showing age appropriate school values (friendship, helpfulness, sharing etc.) or for good work. When the marble jar is empty all the students receive a treat.

Reception students are rewarded for good behaviour by moving up a traffic light system display within the classroom.

#### Preparatory Division –

Students are given house points and stickers for good work.

Students share their work with other teachers and the Head of Preparatory Division.

Students are nominated for the Head of Preparatory Division Award by their class teacher. Recipients are rewarded by receiving a certificate in a weekly assembly.

Students can be given a Value Bead for showing age appropriate school values (friendship, helpfulness, sharing etc.) or for good work. When the marble jar is full all the students receive a treat.

Students from Q1-Q6 keep a record of House points gained by the individual pupil in homework diaries and in their classrooms. Students can earn House points for good behaviour, excellent work or other positive behaviour. When students achieve 50, 100, 150 or 200 House points, they receive a bronze, silver, gold or platinum coloured lapel pin weekly in the Preparatory Division achievement assembly. On achieving 200 House

points, students will receive an extra award (Amazon voucher, trip to a local fast food restaurant etc).

### Senior School/Sixth Form

Students are awarded house points on an individual basis to recognise excellent behaviour, attitude, outstanding pieces of work, etc. by all members of staff (teaching and support).

These rewards are inputted directly onto sims to build their behaviour profile. The rewards gained by the individual is then tracked by their form tutor, Head of Year and can be viewed directly on the VLE by both the student and the parent.

Receiving a House point will signify that the student has gone above and beyond what is normally expected of them.

There will be special rewards for the attainment of 50, 100, 150 and 200 House points with acknowledgement and celebration in school and with parents. In the Sixth Form students will have the chance to be part of the Student Leadership team.

### Strategies and support

The following outline a range of strategies in use in school to reinforce desirable behaviour:

- changes in classroom organisation, seating, etc
- using different resources
- setting small and achievable targets
- short periods of supervised time for personal reflection
- positive rewarding systems with no comments for undesirable behaviour
- use of certificates for positive qualities
- acclaiming good behaviour when it is seen in class
- involving parents at an early stage to make an action plan together
- peer mediation and peer mentoring
- restorative justice approach
- school counselling sessions to help students with social, mental or emotional health difficulties
- social skills training
- referral to CAMHS and/or educational psychology services; and
- referral for family support and/or therapy to help the student and family better understand and manage behaviour.

## 6.2 Our sanctions

The teacher generally deals with minor breaches of discipline in a caring, supportive and fair manner. A child's individual needs will always be considered carefully. However, if there are any times when children transgress from the acceptable boundaries in our school, they will be spoken with so that they understand the boundaries and what is expected of them.

We consider whether the behaviour under review gives cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, staff will follow our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and refer the conduct to the DSL for advice and support before determining any sanction. We should also consider whether continuing disruptive behaviour might be the result of unmet educational or other needs. At this point, we will consider whether a multi-agency assessment is necessary.

Adults always make it clear that they are upset about the child's behaviour, not the child. They should always use private, not public, reprimands, so that when a sanction is applied the child can make a fresh start. Corporal punishment (or the threat of corporal punishment) will not be used in any circumstances and to do so is illegal.

Parents/guardians will be involved at the earliest stage if problems are persisting or recurring.

Any sanction must be reasonable in all the circumstances and account must be taken of the pupil's age, any special educational needs or disability they may have, and any religious requirements affecting them.

In response to major breaches of discipline such as physical aggression, deliberate damage to property, stealing, leaving school premises without permission, severe and persistent bullying, verbal abuse and persistent disruptive behaviour in class the following will be followed:

- verbal warning by the Vice Principal (Pastoral), or the Principal. For most students this will be sufficient and the problem will be rectified
- withdrawal from lessons for an agreed period of the school day
- internal detention during non-lesson time
- detention, including notification of parents
- contacting parents immediately
- meeting with parents/guardians and a plan agreed for monitoring the behaviour whereby parents/guardians also take responsibility for helping their child to improve
- Principal Detention
- suspension (fixed term exclusion); and
- expulsion (permanent exclusion).

6.3.6 It should be noted that, in most cases, the school's sanctions are used in a hierarchical manner. Where cases of serious misbehaviour are evident, the Principal reserves the right to use any sanction, including suspension and expulsion, without first using lower-order strategies.

6.3.7 In the Sixth Form, any unacceptable behaviour including as well as the behaviours laid out above: persistent lateness to lessons, inappropriate dress, not completing work set. The following sanctions will be followed before the Principal detention above:

- meeting with tutor and contact with parents/guardians
- verbal warning from Head of Year or Director of Sixth Form
- timetable drawn up by the sixth form team
- removal from some of the privileges of Sixth form including amongst others: no study leave, use of Café outside of break or lunch
- Director of Academic Studies detention (sanctions for persistent lateness are documented in the Sixth Form Handbook).

## **7 Suspension and Expulsion**

7.1 The Principal reserves the right to suspend and expel students from the school. Suspension and expulsion will be dealt with in accordance with our Exclusion Policy.

## **8 Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff**

8.1 Allegations of abuse are taken seriously and dealt with in a fair and consistent manner that provides effective protection for the child and supports the person about whom the allegation has been made. All allegations will be dealt with in accordance with the Safeguarding and

Child Protection Policy and Procedure. Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality is maintained while an investigation is underway.

## 9 Complaints Procedure

9.1 If parents/guardians are not happy with the way that they or their child has been treated by any member of staff they should consider raising their concern informally in the first instance with the Principal. They may find it helpful to refer to our Complaint Procedure for guidance (available via the school website).

9.2 The Complaints procedure emphasises the importance of resolving any concerns informally and at the earliest possible opportunity. We expect our parents/guardians to share any concerns informally with us so that we can continuously improve the quality of education at our school. If as a parent/guardian(s) the complaint is about exclusion from school for inappropriate conduct, please refer to the Exclusion Policy.

## 10 Monitoring and Evaluation

10.1 The Principal is responsible for ensuring there is a behaviour log which includes instances of bullying.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for reviewing from time to time to evaluate its implementation and impact.

The Principal reports on behaviour and bullying at governance meetings. This forms the monitoring and evaluation function of the proprietor.

Where there are concerns regarding the school's approach to dealing with behaviour, these will be explored by the Cognita Director of Education (DE).

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