



Behaviour Policy

**Statutory policy for those with legal responsibilities
in relation to behaviour and discipline**

Approving Body	St Mary's CE VC First School Governing Body
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About this policy

This policy applies to St Mary's CE VC First School, in accordance with the Equalities Policy, vision and values of the school. The governors and staff must abide by this Policy.

This Policy describes St Mary's CE VC First School's provision for Behaviour and Discipline and has been produced in accordance with DfE guidance. If there is any question or doubt about the interpretation or implementation of this Policy, the Headteacher must be consulted.

Herein:

- 'The school', 'our school', 'we' and 'St Mary's School' means St Mary's CE VC First School, Charminster.
- 'Governor' means a Governor of the school's Governing Body, which is the legal governing body of the school.
- 'Parent' should be read as inclusive of carers and any other person with parental responsibility.

Expiry or review date

This policy will be kept under review and updated at least annually.



Introduction

Good behaviour in schools is central to a good education. Schools need to manage behaviour well so they can provide calm, safe and supportive environments which children and young people want to attend and where they can learn and thrive. Being taught how to behave well and appropriately within the context they're in is vital for all pupils to succeed personally.

Where behaviour is poor, pupils can suffer from issues as diverse as lost learning time, child-on-child abuse, anxiety, bullying, violence, and distress. It can cause some children to stay away from school, missing vital learning time.

When pupils do misbehave, schools should be able to respond promptly, predictably and with confidence to maintain a calm, safe learning environment, and then consider how such behaviour can be prevented from recurring.

In some cases, particularly when a pupil is persistently disruptive and support or sanctions are not deterring misbehaviour, further action may be needed. In serious instances, a pupil may need to be suspended or excluded (please see EXCLUSION POLICY for further information).

This policy is designed to provide clarity around behaviour and discipline in St Mary's School.

Key points

- Teachers have power to discipline pupils for misbehaviour which occurs in school and, in some circumstances, outside of school.
- The power to discipline also applies to all paid staff (unless the headteacher says otherwise) with responsibility for pupils, such as teaching assistants.
- The headteacher and governors must ensure they have strong behaviour procedures to support staff in managing behaviour, including the use of rewards and sanctions.
- The governing body has a duty requiring them to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. They must ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.



The school behaviour procedure; what the law says

The governing body is required to ensure that a written procedure to promote good behaviour among pupils is drawn up and effectively implemented. The procedure must set out the disciplinary sanctions to be adopted if a pupil misbehaves. The governors are also required to ensure that an effective anti-bullying strategy is drawn up and implemented. Information about the school's behaviour procedure must be made available to parents on request. For our school, this is known as the School Behaviour Guidance and can be found at Appendix 3.

Creating and maintaining high standards of behaviour

Creating a culture that promotes excellent behaviour requires a clear vision of what good behaviour looks like. St Mary's School ensures pupils can learn in a calm, safe, and supportive environment and work to protect them from disruption. We are clear about which behaviours are permitted and prohibited; the values, attitudes, and beliefs they promote and the social norms and routines that should be encouraged throughout our school community (please see School Behaviour Guidance - available at appendix 3 - for further information).

This behaviour policy is the starting point for laying out this vision and is one of the important ways our school culture is communicated to the pupils, staff, and parents and carers. It is equally important that this behaviour policy is implemented effectively to create a positive behaviour culture in which pupils are encouraged to reflect the values of the school.

The headteacher takes responsibility for implementing measures to secure acceptable standards of behaviour. The headteacher ensures the school's approach to behaviour meets the following national minimum expectations¹ :

- having high expectations of pupils' conduct and behaviour, which is commonly understood by staff and pupils and applied consistently and fairly to help create a calm and safe environment;
- visibly and consistently providing support to all staff in managing pupil behaviour through following the behaviour policy;
- ensuring that measures are in place and both general and targeted interventions are used to improve pupil behaviour and support is provided to all pupils to help them meet behaviour standards, making reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability as required;
- ensuring that pupil behaviour does not normally disrupt teaching, learning or school routines. Disruption is not tolerated, and proportionate action is taken to restore acceptable standards of behaviour;
- ensuring that all members of the school community create a positive, safe environment in which bullying, physical threats or abuse and intimidation are not tolerated, in which pupils are safe and feel safe and everyone is treated respectfully; and
- that any incidents of bullying, discrimination, aggression, and derogatory language (including name calling) are dealt with quickly and effectively.

It is essential that all staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, as set out in statutory guidance [Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in education \(KCSiE\)](#). KCSiE is clear that all school staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn. Where circumstances arise

¹ *The national minimum expectation of behaviour is aligned with the Ofsted 'good' grade descriptor for assessing Behaviour and Attitudes.*



that endanger the safety of a pupil or staff member, the school will act swiftly and decisively to remove the threat and reduce the likelihood of its reoccurrence.

Developing our School Behaviour Guidance

A school's culture and values are manifested through the behaviour of all its members. High standards and clear rules reflect the values of the school and outline the expectations and consequences of behaviour for everyone. Our School Behaviour Guidance provides details on how staff will support pupils to meet these expectations.

The headteacher determines measures which aim to:

- encourage good behaviour and respect for others;
- secure an acceptable standard of behaviour of pupils;
- promote, among pupils, self-discipline and proper regard for authority;
- prevent all forms of bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- ensure that pupils complete any tasks reasonably assigned to them in connection with their education; and
- otherwise regulate the conduct of pupils.

Our School Behaviour Guidance sets out what is expected of staff, senior leaders, pupils and parents and forms part of staff induction.

Communicating the behaviour policy and guidance

Communicating the school policy and guidance to all members of the community is an important way of building and maintaining the school's culture. It helps make behaviour expectations transparent to all pupils, parents and staff members, and provides reassurance that expectations of, and responses to, behaviour are consistent, fair, proportionate, and predictable.

This behaviour policy will be published on school's website alongside the School Specific Behaviour Guidance and is available in hard copy on request.

A whole-school approach to behaviour

Our school's approach to behaviour will be easily apparent to anyone joining or visiting the school. Everyone should treat one another with dignity, kindness and respect and schools will teach and adhere to the three behaviour expectations which are:

- Readiness to Learn
- Respectful Relationships
- Engagement

Some pupils may require additional support to meet the school's behaviour expectations and this support will be given consistently and predictably, applied fairly and only where necessary.



The School Behaviour Guidance / Curriculum

Our Behaviour Guidance defines the expected behaviours in school. It is centred on what successful behaviour looks like and defines it clearly for all parties. The expected behaviours should be taught to all pupils, so that they understand what behaviour is expected. Expected behaviours should be clearly displayed in the school.

Adjustments can be made for pupils with additional needs, where appropriate and reasonable, to ensure all pupils can meet behavioural expectations. These adjustments may be temporary. The adjustments needed for those pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND), whose condition may at times affect their behaviour, are set out in the section 'Behaviour expectations and pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND)'. We are mindful that not all pupils requiring support with behaviour will have identified special educational needs or disabilities.

The Behaviour Guidance uses the language of pro social, unsocial, anti-social and dangerous behaviours and gives examples of each to describe social expectations in school.

School systems detailed in the behaviour guidance define the rewards and consequences for behaviour.

Banned / Prohibited items in all schools

BANNED items for pupils to be in possession of in school are:

(an * indicates that these items are also deemed as PROHIBITED):

- *knives and weapons
- *alcohol
- *illegal drugs
- *stolen items
- *any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - to commit an offence, or
 - to cause harm to property or person (including the pupil)
- *fireworks
- any paraphernalia designed to promote racist or derogatory themes or ideals, including extremist propaganda or *pornography of any kind
- *tobacco products and related paraphernalia, such as cigarette papers
- any smoking paraphernalia including vapes, e-cigarettes or shisha-type devices
- nicotine products such as nicotine pods/pouches
- medicines (unless agreed with the school that the pupil is to carry the medication with them, otherwise, all medication should be stored and administered using the school's systems and processes).
- stink bombs / water bombs / other items that staff reasonable suspect has been or is likely to be used to cause disruption
- electronic devices which can be heard or are visible, including mobile phones or similar technologies that are used to communicate and smart technology
- aerosols
- bandanas, masks or anything which could be utilised to conceal identity (unless for medical purposes)
- 'legal' highs - substances designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs
- energy drinks (unless for medical purposes)
- any other article specified in [regulations](#)



The role of all stakeholders

The role of school leaders, staff and pupils are set out clearly in the School Behaviour Guidance. There is also clarity provided for what the school would like from pupils' parents. New staff and pupils will be inducted into the expectations set out in the guidance.

The role of school leaders

The school leadership team will be highly visible, routinely engaging with pupils, parents and staff on setting and maintaining the school's behaviour culture and an environment where everyone feels safe and supported.

School leaders have a crucial role to play in making sure all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them. School leaders will make sure that all new staff are inducted clearly into the school's behaviour culture to ensure they understand its rules and routines and how best to support all pupils to participate in creating the culture of the school.

School leaders will provide appropriate training required for staff to meet their duties and functions within the behaviour policy. School leaders will also ensure that their staff have adequate training on matters such as how certain special educational needs, disabilities, or mental health needs may, at times, affect a pupil's behaviour, making links to whole school approaches to mental health and wellbeing as set out in the [Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools guidance](#).

The role of teachers and staff

Staff will uphold the whole-school approach to behaviour by teaching and modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships as detailed in the behaviour guidance, so that pupils can see examples of good habits and are confident to ask for help when needed.

Staff will challenge pupils to meet the school expectations and maintain the boundaries of acceptable conduct. All staff will communicate the school expectations, routines, values and standards both explicitly through teaching behaviour and in every interaction with pupils.

Staff will consider the impact of their own behaviour on the school culture and how they can uphold the school rules and expectations. Clear guidance about school expectations of staff conduct at school is detailed in the behaviour guidance.

The role of pupils

Every pupil will be made aware of the school behaviour standards, expectations, pastoral support, and consequence processes. Pupils will be taught that they have a duty to follow the School Behaviour Guidance and uphold the school rules, and should contribute to the school culture.

Pupils will be asked about their experience of behaviour and provide feedback on the school's behaviour culture. This can help support the evaluation, improvement and implementation of the behaviour policy.

Every pupil will be supported to achieve the behaviour standards, including an induction process that familiarises them with the school behaviour culture. Schools may wish to repeat elements of this induction for all pupils at suitable points in the academic year. Provision will be made for all new pupils to ensure they understand the school's behaviour policy and wider culture. Where necessary, extra support and induction should be provided for pupils who are mid-phase arrivals.



The role of parents

Parents should be encouraged to get to know the school's behaviour policy and, where possible, take part in the life of the school and its culture. Parents should be encouraged to reinforce the behaviour policy at home, as appropriate.

Where a parent has a concern about management of behaviour, they should raise this directly with the school while continuing to work in partnership with them. Where appropriate, parents will be included in any pastoral work following misbehaviour, including attending reviews of specific behaviour interventions in place.

What schools would like from parents is detailed in the School Behaviour Guidance, available at Appendix 3.

Behaviour expectations and pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND)

We have carefully considered how a whole-school approach can meet the needs of all pupils in school, including pupils with SEND, so that everyone can feel they belong in the school community and high expectations are maintained for all pupils.

Some behaviours are more likely to be associated with particular types of SEND. Behaviour will often need to be considered in relation to a pupil's SEND, although it does not follow that every incident of misbehaviour will be connected to their SEND.

We must manage pupil behaviour effectively, whether or not the pupil has underlying needs. Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, the graduated approach should be used to assess, plan, deliver and then review the impact of the support being provided. This can be part of the individual plan or as part of a behaviour or pastoral support plan.

The law also requires schools to balance a number of duties which will have bearing on our behaviour policy and practice, particularly where a pupil has SEND that at times affects their behaviour. In particular:

- schools have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to take such steps as is reasonable to avoid any substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices;
- under the Children and Families Act 2014, relevant settings have a duty to use their 'best endeavours' to meet the needs of those with SEND; and
- If a pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan, the provisions set out in that plan must be secured and the school must cooperate with the local authority and other bodies detailed in the plan.

As part of meeting any of these duties, schools should, as far as possible, anticipate likely triggers of misbehaviour and put in place support to prevent these. Schools will use the 'Roadmap of Support' (available in the behaviour guidance found at Appendix 2) to help identify any unmet needs. Any preventative measure should take into account the specific circumstances and requirements of the pupil concerned.



Responding to behaviour

We constantly positively reinforce the behaviour which reflects the values of our school and prepares pupils to engage in their learning. Sometimes a pupil's behaviour will be unacceptable, and pupils need to understand that there are consequences for their behaviour. Often this will involve the use of reasonable and proportionate sanctions.

Responding to good behaviour

Acknowledging good behaviour encourages repetition and communicates the school community's expectations and values to all pupils. We detail our reward systems in our Behaviour Guidance. These rewards are applied clearly and fairly to reinforce the routines, expectations, and norms of the school's behaviour culture.

Responding to misbehaviour

When a member of school staff becomes aware of misbehaviour, they should respond predictably, promptly, and assertively in accordance with the School Behaviour Policy and Guidance.

The first priority should be to ensure the safety of pupils and staff and to restore a calm environment. It is important that all staff respond in a consistent, fair, and proportionate manner so pupils know with certainty that misbehaviour will always be addressed.

We detail their response to unsocial, antisocial and dangerous behaviours in our Behaviour Guidance. The response to unsocial, antisocial or dangerous behaviour is designed to maintain the culture of our school, restore a calm and safe environment in which all pupils can learn and thrive, and prevent the recurrence of the behaviour. To achieve these aims, a response to behaviour may have various purposes.

These include:

- a) **deterrence:** sanctions can often be effective deterrents for a specific pupil or a general deterrent for all pupils at the school.
- b) **protection:** keeping pupils safe is a legal duty of all staff. A protective measure in response to inappropriate behaviour may be immediate or after assessment of risk.
- c) **improvement:** to support pupils to understand and meet the behaviour expectations and re-engage in meaningful education. Pupils will test boundaries, may find their emotions difficult to manage, or may have misinterpreted the rules. Pupils should be supported to understand and follow the rules. This may be via sanctions, reflective conversations or targeted pastoral support.

We take account of any contributing factors that are identified after a behaviour incident has occurred: for example, if the pupil has suffered bereavement, experienced abuse or neglect, has mental health needs, has been subject to bullying, has needs including SEND (including any not previously identified), has been subject to criminal exploitation, or is experiencing significant challenges at home. Please see the 'Roadmap of Support' (Appendix 2) for further information.



Acceptable forms of sanction

Our Behaviour Guidance includes a range of possible sanctions which should be clearly communicated to and understood by pupils, staff and parents.

For some behaviours, suspension or exclusion may be necessary.

Schools will consider whether the misbehaviour gives cause to suspect that a pupil is suffering, or is likely to suffer, harm. Where this may be the case as set out in [Part 1 of KCSiE](#), school staff should follow the school's child protection policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). They will consider if pastoral support, an Early Help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate. If a pupil in these circumstances has SEND that has affected their behaviour, the school will need to consider what the law requires.

What the law allows

Teachers can sanction pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could reasonably be expected of them. This means that if a pupil misbehaves, breaks a rule or fails to follow a reasonable instruction, the teacher can apply a sanction on that pupil.

Staff can issue sanctions any time pupils are in school or elsewhere under the charge of a member of staff, including on school visits. This also applies in certain circumstances when a pupil's misbehaviour occurs outside of school.

A sanction will be lawful if it satisfies the following three conditions:

- a) The decision to sanction a pupil is made by a paid member of school staff (but not one who the headteacher has decided should not do so) or an unpaid member of staff authorised by the headteacher;
- b) The decision to sanction the pupil and the sanction itself are made on the school premises or while the pupil is under the lawful charge of the member of staff; and
- c) It does not breach any other legislation (for example in respect of equality, special educational needs and human rights) and it is reasonable in all the circumstances.

In considering whether a sanction is reasonable in all circumstances, there must be consideration to whether it is proportionate in the circumstances of the case and consider any special circumstances relevant to its imposition including the pupil's age, any special educational needs or disability they may have, and any religious requirements affecting them.

The headteacher may limit the power to apply particular sanctions, or to sanction particular pupils or types of pupils, to certain staff and/or extend the power to discipline to adult volunteers, for example to parents who have volunteered to help on a school trip.

Corporal punishment by school staff is illegal in all circumstances.



Responding to the behaviour of pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND)

St Mary's School will consistently and fairly promote high standards of behaviour for all pupils and provide additional support where needed to ensure pupils can achieve and learn as well as possible.

We should not assume that because a pupil has SEND, it must have affected their behaviour on a particular occasion – this is a question of judgement for the school on the facts of the situation.

We always consider whether a pupil's SEND has contributed to the misbehaviour and if so, whether it is appropriate and lawful to sanction the pupil. In considering this, schools should refer to the Equality Act 2010 and School Behaviour Guidance.

The school will also consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the sanction in response to any disability the pupil may have. It is also important for us to seek to try and understand the underlying causes of behaviour and whether additional support is needed.

Supporting pupils following a sanction

Following a sanction, strategies should be considered to help all pupils to understand how to improve their behaviour and meet the behaviour expectations of the school. Designated staff are appropriately trained to deliver these strategies. These strategies are often part of a wider approach that involves the wellbeing and mental health of the pupil.

Detentions

A detention is a commonly used sanction in many schools, often used as a deterrent to future misbehaviour. In our school, detentions are typically a short period where the pupil is required to remain under supervision of school staff when their peers have been allowed a break. We do not permit afterschool detentions. In our school, we do not call

When used, detentions should be done so consistently and fairly by staff. This process should be well known to all pupils and staff.

What the law allows

Teachers have authority to issue detention to pupils. Detentions can take place during or after the school day but only detentions during the school day are a possible sanction for pupils at St Mary's School. The headteacher decides which members of staff can issue detentions. Usually this is all staff working in a school.

Matters schools will consider when imposing detentions

Parental consent is not required for detentions during the school day. However, it is good practice to routinely inform parents and work with them to support the pupil to mitigate the behaviour happening again. With lunchtime detentions, staff must allow reasonable time for the pupil to eat, drink and use the toilet. School staff must not issue a detention where there is any reasonable concern that doing so would compromise a pupil's safety.



The use of reasonable force

Detailed advice is available in [Use of Reasonable Force – advice for school leaders, staff and governing bodies](#). Headteachers and all school staff should read and follow this guidance.

There are some circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools to use reasonable force to safeguard pupils. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain pupils. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'.

Members of staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property and to maintain good order and discipline at the school or among pupils.

Headteachers and authorised school staff may also use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for prohibited items detailed in 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation - Advice for schools'. Force may not be used to search for other items banned under the school rules, however physical resistance by a pupil to a search for banned rather than prohibited items can itself be subject to behavioural sanctions.

When considering using reasonable force, staff should, in considering the risks, carefully recognise any specific vulnerabilities of the pupil, including SEND, mental health needs or medical conditions.

Searching, screening and confiscation

Detailed guidance for schools can be found in following DfE guidance: [Searching, Screening and Confiscation, Advice for Schools](#). Headteachers and school staff should read and follow this guidance. Guidance on the use of screening in our schools can be found at Appendix 1.

The school has the statutory power to undertake a search of a student or their possessions. A search can be considered if the member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item or any item identified in the school rules for which a search can be made, or if the pupil has agreed after staff are assured that the pupil/s understand the reason for the search and how it will be conducted so that the consent is informed.

Specific items can be searched for without consent and with the use of reasonable force. These are specified in 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation – advice for schools' but, for clarity, are:

- *knives and weapons;*
- *alcohol;*
- *illegal drugs;*
- *stolen items;*
- *any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).*
- *an article specified in regulations including*
 - *tobacco and cigarette papers;*
 - *fireworks; and*
 - *pornographic images*



Before a member of staff carries out a search without consent, the member of staff must reasonably suspect that the pupil has the banned item in their possession. Only staff members authorised by the headteacher may carry out searches without consent.

Only the headteacher or a member of school staff officially authorised by the headteacher, can undertake the search of a pupil. The staff member conducting the search should be the same sex as the pupil being searched, and there must be a witness (also a staff member and ideally the same sex as the pupil). There is a limited exception to this rule (where a search can be carried out on a student of the opposite sex and / or without a witness) only where the headteacher or designated member of staff reasonably believes there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to the person if the search is not conducted immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

Any searches of a pupil's own person or of their possessions will be carried out with due consideration for the pupil's personal dignity, health and safety, the school's safeguarding policy and all other relevant policies and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation - Advice to schools' from the DfE.

Any searches must always be viewed as a last resort, when other methods of investigation and communication have failed and only if absolutely necessary, such as in extreme situations where leaving a pupil with such a suspected item could pose risks to others (or to that pupil). It is hoped that in the great majority of instances, there will be no need for a search to be carried out. Any staff authorised to carry out searches must have had sufficient training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

There may be rare instances where a pupil with a specific SEND diagnosis requires a different approach. For example, the school may refrain from searching, unless in an emergency, if a pupil is tactile defensive or has a sensory sensitivity, which means that a search may significantly escalate a situation. In such circumstances, the school would deal with the situation in a different way, bespoke to the needs of the pupil to ensure all pupils remained safe.

Searches with consent

The school may search pupils with their consent for any item. A pupil's possessions can only be searched in the presence of the student and another member of staff, except where there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

Confiscation

School staff can confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty in the same circumstances as other disciplinary penalties. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated, provided they acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case, adhering to statutory guidance in all cases.

Authorised staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search and can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline. When deciding what to do with a prohibited item, the school will act in line with statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and the relevant safeguarding policies and laws.



Removal from classrooms

St Mary's School may use removal from the classroom as a disciplinary measure.

Removal is where a pupil, for serious disciplinary reasons, is required to spend a limited time out of the classroom at the instruction of a member of staff. This is to be differentiated from circumstances in which a pupil is asked to step outside of the classroom briefly for a conversation with a staff member and asked to return following this. Removal will allow for continuation of the pupil's education and will be supervised by a trained member of staff, although the continuous education provided may differ to the mainstream curriculum but will still be meaningful for the pupil.

Removal from the classroom will provide time for the pupil to reflect on the behaviour that led to their removal and what they can do to improve and avoid such behaviour in the future.

Schools may use removal of pupils to maintain and restore stability. The length of time a pupil is removed from the classroom will be dependent on the nature and severity of the incident leading to the removal. All removed pupils will have opportunities to eat, drink and use the toilet at appropriate times. Pupils will not be locked in the room of their removal. There may be exceptional situations in which it is necessary to physically prevent a pupil from leaving a room in order to protect the safety of pupils and staff from immediate risk, but this would be a safety measure rather than disciplinary, so is not covered in this policy.

Removal from the classroom is considered a serious sanction. It should only be used when necessary and once other behavioural strategies in the classroom have been attempted, unless the behaviour is so extreme as to warrant immediate removal. Parents should be informed on the same day if their child has been removed from the classroom. Schools will consider whether there are special considerations relevant to its imposition and whether any assessment of underlying factors of disruptive behaviour is needed.

Removal should be used for the following reasons:

- to maintain the safety of all pupils and to restore stability following an unreasonably high level of disruption;
- to enable disruptive pupils to be taken to a place where education can be continued in a managed environment; and
- to allow the pupil to regain calm in a safe space.

Pupils should not be removed from the classroom for prolonged periods of time without the explicit agreement of the headteacher. These pupils should be given extensive support to continue their education, including targeted pastoral support aimed to improve behaviour so that they can reintegrate and succeed within the mainstream school community.

Removal will be distinguished from the use of separation spaces (sometimes known as sensory or nurture rooms) for non-disciplinary reasons. For instance, where a pupil is taken out of the classroom to regulate their emotions because of identified sensory overload as part of a planned response.

Pupils who are removed will be reintegrated into the classroom when it is safe and appropriate to do so. This will be overseen by a trained member of staff and will take into account the needs of the pupil and the nature of the incident that preceded the removal.



Where a removed pupil has a social worker or are looked after, the social worker and / or virtual schools will be notified and multi-agency discussions should be held to detail any support needed to improve behaviour, including any updates to a Personal Education Plan if the pupil is looked after.

Schools will ensure that the Children and Families Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010 and regulations under those Acts are being complied with at all times.

Schools will collect, monitor and analyse removal data internally to ensure the effective use of removal and to determine any repeating patterns and whether any alternative approaches may be required. This data should also be analysed to identify any patterns relating to pupils sharing any of the protected characteristics and to ensure that removal is not having a disproportionate effect on these pupils.

Headteachers should:

- maintain overall strategic oversight of the school's arrangements for any removals
- make sure the reasons that may lead to pupils being removed are transparent and known to all staff and pupils
- outline in the behaviour guidance, the principles governing the length of time that it is appropriate for a pupil to be in removal
- ensure that the removal location is in an appropriate area of the school and stocked with appropriate resources, is a suitable place to learn and refocus, and is supervised by trained members of staff
- design a clear process for the reintegration of any pupil in removal into the classroom when appropriate and safe to do so.

Suspension and permanent exclusion

Headteachers can use suspension and permanent exclusion in response to serious incidents or in response to persistent poor behaviour which has not improved following in-school sanctions and interventions. All suspensions and exclusions follow the appropriate legal processes. Please see the exclusion policy for further information.

Managed moves

A managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a pupil to another mainstream school permanently. If a temporary move needs to occur to improve a pupil's behaviour, then off-site direction should be used. Managed moves should only occur when it is in the pupil's best interests. Managed moves will be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation and Local Authority systems

Behaviour outside of school premises

Schools have the power to sanction pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises to such an extent as is reasonable. The school's response to non-criminal poor behaviour and bullying which occurs off the school premises or online and which is witnessed by a staff member or reported to the



school will be proportional and reasonable. Schools will liaise with local authorities to promote good behaviour on school transport.

Conduct outside the school premises, including online conduct, that schools may sanction pupils for include, but are not limited to misbehaviour that occurs:

- when taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity;
- when travelling to or from school;
- when wearing school uniform;
- when in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school;
- that could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school;
- that poses a threat to another pupil; or
- that could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

The decision to sanction a pupil will be lawful if it is made on the school premises or elsewhere at a time when the pupil is under the control or charge of a member of staff of the school.

Preventing recurrence of misbehaviour

Initial intervention following behavioural incidents

St Mary's School adopts a range of initial intervention strategies to help pupils manage their behaviour and to reduce the likelihood of suspension and permanent exclusion. This is achieved by helping pupils understand behavioural expectations and by providing support for pupils who struggle to meet those expectations. Some pupils will need more support than others and this should be provided as proactively as possible.

We have systems in place to ensure relevant members of staff are aware of any pupil persistently misbehaving, whose behaviour is not improving following low-level sanctions, or whose behaviour reflects a sudden change from previous patterns of behaviour.

Initial intervention to address underlying factors leading to misbehaviour can include an assessment of whether appropriate provision is in place to support any SEND that a pupil may have. See 'Roadmap of Support' for further information.

Where our school has serious concerns about a pupil's behaviour, it will consider whether a multi-agency assessment such as an early help assessment or statutory assessment that goes beyond the pupil's educational needs is required (see guidance 'Working together to safeguard children').

Pupil support units

All staff will ensure that the Children and Families Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010 and regulations under those Acts are being complied with.

A pupil support unit is a planned intervention occurring in small groups and in place of mainstream lessons. Where this is used, it may have a different name but is still considered a pupil support unit.

The purpose of this unit can be two-fold:

- as a planned intervention for behavioural or pastoral reasons
- as a final preventative measure to support pupils at risk of exclusion.



In both circumstances, the underlying ambition is to improve behaviour and maintain learning with the goal to successfully reintegrate the pupil into mainstream lessons. If pupil support units are used, the approach in the unit will be aligned to the culture of the whole school and compatible with the school's behaviour guidance.

Most pupil support units are established solely to accommodate pupils from the school in which they are located, whilst some units, often termed 'in-school Alternative Provision (AP) units', are established to accommodate pupils from other schools as well. The placement of pupils from the local authority or a separate school into a unit is a form of alternative provision and those arranging and providing the placement must adhere to their legal duties, which are set out in legislation and summarised in the alternative provision statutory guidance. When a placement is commissioned by another school, the pupils must be admitted in accordance with the 'host' school's published admissions arrangements and registered as a pupil at the 'host' school in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. The pupil should remain dual-registered at the referring school.

Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, the relevant statutory duties on the referring school and local authority will also continue to apply. The referring school should, where possible, contact the relevant authority at an early stage if it is contemplating a placement for a pupil with an EHC plan in a pupil support unit that is in another school. If the referring school wants to place a pupil with a plan in a unit that is in another school, the local authority will need to follow the statutory procedures for amending the setting on the plan.

If an in-school pupil support unit is used, a broad and balanced curriculum that aligns to the mainstream curriculum will be offered although it may be personalised for the pupil's context. The unit will be an integral part of the school offer and, as such, will have a visible presence from school staff. Staff deployed to the unit will have the appropriate skill set to support pupils with their behaviour and learning needs to ensure effective impact and progress and pupils will be referred based on their needs and in consultation with their parents.

Pupils using a pupil support unit will have regular reviews for reintegration and these reviews will actively involve parents and the pupil. Progress will be actively monitored by the home school. If an off-site pupil support unit is used, the home school will use the centralised system and processes to ensure quality of education and safeguarding and to ensure regular contact with the host school.

Reintegration

St Mary's School has a strategy for reintegrating pupils following removal from the classroom, time spent in a pupil support unit, in another setting under off-site direction or following suspension. This strategy will have a process to consider what support is needed to help the pupil return to mainstream education and meet the expected standards of behaviour.

Monitoring and evaluating school behaviour

Our school has a strong and effective systems for data capture, including all components of the behaviour culture. This is monitored and objectively analysed regularly by skilled staff. This is also analysed at Safeguarding Team level and shared with governors. School leaders should pose questions to drill down further to identify possible factors contributing to the behaviour, system problems or failure to provide appropriate support.



Data will be analysed at multiple levels to identify possible factors contributing to the behaviour and by protected characteristic to inform policy and practice and to ensure that the school is meeting its duties under the Equality Act, 2010

Guidance on specific behaviour issues

Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment

Following any report of child-on-child sexual violence or sexual harassment offline or online, we will follow the general safeguarding principles set out in Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) especially the principles outlined in Part 5. The designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) is the most appropriate person to advise on the school's initial response and each incident will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Responding assertively to sexually inappropriate behaviour is an important intervention that helps prevent challenging, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

St Mary's will be clear in every aspect of their culture that sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, will not be tolerated and that pupils whose behaviour falls below expectations will be sanctioned. Staff are aware of the importance of challenging all inappropriate language and behaviour between pupils and advocate strenuously for high standards of conduct between pupils and staff including demonstrating modelling manners, courtesy and dignified / respectful relationships.

Pupils who fall short of these behaviour expectations may be sanctioned whilst other investigations by the police and/or children's social care are ongoing.

Victims of child on child sexual violence and / or sexual harassment will be reassured they will be supported, kept safe, and are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or their experience minimised.

In instances where reports of sexual abuse or harassment are proven to be deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate for the individual who made it. At all times, there will be due regard to Keeping Children Safe in education (KCSiE) and the designated safeguarding lead will be engaged and will make referrals into support services where appropriate.

Behaviour incidents online

The same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline in school.

Inappropriate online behaviour including bullying, the use of inappropriate language, the soliciting and sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the same principles as offline behaviour, including following the child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) when an incident raises a safeguarding concern. In cases where there is suspicion of criminal behaviour online by a pupil, schools will follow the guidance below on suspected criminal behaviour.



When an incident involves nude or semi-nude images and/or videos, the member of staff should refer the incident to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as the most appropriate person to advise on the school's response. St Mary's will follow the principles as set out in Keeping children safe in education and the guidance provided by the UK council for Internet Safety.

Many online behaviour incidents amongst young people occur outside the school day and off the school premises. Parents are responsible for this behaviour.

Online behaviour incidents outside of the school day are considered the responsibility of the parents and schools will decide whether investigation is a reasonable use of staff's time and only when the school deems that the incident occurring online and outside of the school day will negatively affect the school culture.

St Mary's First School is able to sanction pupils when their behaviour online poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil, and/or could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, when the pupil is identifiable as a member of the school or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Mobile phones

School leaders will read and understand the DfE guidance on mobile phones in schools and will follow the mobile phone policy detailed in Appendix 2.

References to 'mobile phones' should also be taken to refer to other communications and smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones.

Suspected criminal behaviour

In cases when a member of staff suspects criminal behaviour, the school will make an initial assessment of whether an incident should be reported to the police only by gathering enough information to establish the facts of the case. These initial investigations will be fully documented, and schools will make every effort to preserve any relevant evidence. Once a decision is made to report the incident to police, schools will ensure any further action they take does not interfere with any police action taken. However, schools retain the discretion to continue investigations and enforce their own sanctions so long as it does not conflict with police action.

When making a report to the police, it will often be appropriate to make a tandem report to local children's social care. In this instance, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) should take the lead. In all instances, staff will have due regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE).



Appendix 1: Screening

Please see:

[Searching, Screening and Confiscation, advice for schools](#)

[Keeping Children Safe In Education](#)

Introduction

Ensuring school staff and pupils feel safe and secure is vital to establishing calm and supportive environments conducive to learning. Using searching, screening and confiscation powers appropriately is an important way to ensure pupil and staff welfare is protected and helps schools establish an environment where everyone is safe.

St Mary's School and our staff are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in the statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) makes clear that all school staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn.

Before screening or conducting a search of a pupil, we will consider our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. Under Article 8, pupils have a right to respect for their private life. In the context of these rights and obligations, this means that pupils have the right to expect a reasonable level of personal privacy. The right under Article 8 is not absolute; it can be interfered with, but any interference with this right by our schools must be justified and proportionate.

Screening

We follow **all** advice set out in Searching, Screening and Confiscation; Advice for Schools.

Screening and adjustments

At all times, the pupil's age, safeguarding history, SEN and any other contextual information will be considered to ensure that any reasonable adjustments are made to the process, if necessary.

Screening and consent

Screening is used as a preventative measure so if a pupil refuses to be screened, staff will need to consider whether it will be necessary to conduct a search. Please [see 'Searching, screening and confiscation; advice for schools'](#) for further information on searches.

Pupils who refuse to be screened will not be stopped from entering the school but may, after considering all information available to the school, have alternative arrangements for their learning made to keep them and others safe.

Pupils who refuse to be screened may be sanctioned in line with the school's behaviour guidance.



After Screening

Whether or not any items have been found as a result of any screening, the school will consider whether the reasons for the screening, the screening itself, or the outcome of the screening give cause to suspect that the pupil is suffering, or is likely to suffer harm, and/or whether any specific support is needed.

Where this may be the case, school staff will follow the school's child protection policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as set out in Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE). They will consider if pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

If any prohibited items are found during the screening, the member of staff should follow the guidance set out in ***Searching, Screening and Confiscation, Advice for Schools*** for confiscation. If a pupil is found to be in possession of a prohibited item listed below, then the staff member should alert the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and the pupil should be sanctioned in line with the school's behaviour policy to ensure consistency of approach.

Informing Parents

Schools will reinforce the whole-school approach by building and maintaining positive relationships with parents. Parents should always be informed of any screening for a prohibited item listed below that has taken place, and the outcome of the screening as soon as is practicable.

A member of staff should inform the parents of what, if anything, has been confiscated and the resulting action the school has taken, including any sanctions applied.

Schools will also inform parents of a screening for an item banned by the school policy but not prohibited (*please see below for a list*).

Any complaints about searching, screening or confiscation should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure

Prohibited and Banned Items:

BANNED items for pupils to be in possession of across all schools are (*an * indicates that these items are also deemed as **PROHIBITED***):

- *knives and weapons
- *alcohol
- *illegal drugs
- *stolen items
- *any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - to commit an offence, or
 - to cause harm to property or person (including the pupil)
- *fireworks
- any paraphernalia designed to promote racist or derogatory themes or ideals, including extremist propaganda or *pornography of any kind



- *tobacco products and related paraphernalia, such as cigarette papers
- any smoking paraphernalia including vapes, e-cigarettes or shisha-type devices
- nicotine products such as nicotine pods/pouches
- medicines (unless agreed with the school that the pupil is to carry the medication with them, otherwise, all medication should be stored and administered using the school's systems and processes).
- stink bombs / water bombs / other items that staff reasonable suspect has been or is likely to be used to cause disruption
- electronic devices which can be heard or are visible, including mobile phones or similar technologies that are used to communicate and smart technology
- aerosols
- bandanas, masks or anything which could be utilised to conceal identity (unless for medical purposes)
- chewing gum
- 'legal' highs - substances designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs
- energy drinks (unless for medical purposes)
- any other article specified in [regulations](#)



Appendix 2: Mobile Phone Policy

This appendix will be updated in line with the behaviour policy and at least annually.

This appendix (Mobile Phone Policy) is for staff, governors, parents and pupils.

The headteacher will read and understand the DfE guidance on mobile phones in schools and will follow the mobile phone policy detailed in this appendix.

The policy will be vigorously, consistently and visibly applied to the effect that mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day.

References to 'mobile phones' should also be taken to refer to other communications and smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones such as smart watches.

If parents / pupils choose to bring mobile phones onto the school premises, the school accepts no responsibility for any damage or loss that may occur.

Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school

Our school works to create a mobile phone-free environment by prohibiting the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Should children have to bring a smart device to school, St Mary's School operates a '**Mobile phone handed in on arrival**' policy where pupils hand in their devices to school staff and then collect them at the end of the school day. Mobile phones that are seen during the school day may be confiscated for the length of time that the headteacher deems proportionate.

Communicating the policy to pupils and parents

The mobile phone policy and the 'mobile phone handed in on arrival' policy which St Mary's is deploying will be communicated clearly to pupils and parents and be available as part of the behaviour policy on school's websites.

School leaders should ensure that all staff, pupils and parents are familiar with the policy and how it is implemented

The role of staff

Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. However, there may be occasions where it is appropriate for a staff member to use a work issued mobile phone or similar device, for instance to issue homework, issue rewards and sanctions or use multi-factor authentication.

Staff will explicitly teach pupils about the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly, to ensure they understand the decision being taken by the school



to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. Staff will also teach pupils about the benefits of having a mobile phone-free environment and be encouraged to see such an environment as desirable and valuable.

The role of pupils

All pupils should be clear on the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be reminded of the policy, and the consequences and sanctions for not following it, at the start of each school year and again, where appropriate, at regular intervals

The role of parents

Parents have an important role in supporting the school in prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should contact the school office, where staff will have a process for relaying messages and facilitating contact.

Where parents have questions or concerns, staff should address these in a timely manner and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

The use of sanctions

There can be a range of sanctions, including confiscation, for pupils breaching this policy, as detailed above in the sanctions sections of the behaviour policy, and this should be sufficient to act as an effective deterrent.

St Mary's school does have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty and the law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case. Headteachers are backed by the DfE to confiscate mobile phones and similar devices for the length of time they deem proportionate. In considering whether a confiscation is a proportionate penalty, schools should consider what disciplinary outcome the confiscation is intended to achieve and whether there are other ways to achieve the same outcome.

In considering whether a sanction is reasonable, consideration must be given to whether it is proportionate in the circumstances of the case and consider any special circumstances relevant to its imposition including the pupil's age, any religious requirements affecting them and any special educational needs or disability (SEND) they may have.

Schools should consider whether the use of a mobile phone gives cause to suspect that a pupil is suffering, or may be at risk of, harm. Where this may be the case, as set out in part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, school staff should follow the school's child protection policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). They will consider if pastoral support, an early intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate



Searching pupils

The Headteacher, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as set out above or any item identified in the banned items list as an item that may be searched for. Mobile phones and similar devices are identified as something that may be searched for in the school behaviour policy above.

Adaptations and reasonable adjustments

Schools have legal duties to support pupils with medical conditions and to take reasonable steps to avoid disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices on mobile phones. Schools should assess each case for adjustments or adaptations on its own merits, but where mobile phone use allows pupils to manage their medical condition effectively, it would not be reasonable for a school to prevent this.

Beyond these specific duties, schools should recognise that a need for mobile phone access for some pupils may depend on their individual circumstances, including at home. Schools should allow flexibility for these pupils and consider including arrangements in other relevant policies (such as a young carers policy).

Allowing flexibility for individual pupils does not mean that these pupils should be exempt from all restrictions on the use of their mobile phone. Schools should develop practices which enable pupils to use their mobile phone for a specific purpose at specific times and locations.

The use of mobile phones outside the school day

We will determine how we wish to manage the use of mobile phones by pupils on residential trips or trips outside of the normal school day on a case by case basis and will communicate this clearly to parents and pupils. Schools should ensure that pupils' educational experience on a school trip is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones and should consider prohibiting or restricting their use.

St Mary's will remain vigilant to risks relating to online safety and will ensure that online safety is reflected in all appropriate school policies. Schools will ensure that pupils are able to access their mobile phone, where necessary, when raising concerns with staff about issues which have occurred online.



Appendix 3: St Mary's CE VC First School's Behaviour Guidance

Behaviour Guidance currently being finalised. This document details our vision, values, behaviour principles, behaviour expectations, types of behaviour, rewards and consequences. It also includes links to a range of supporting sources.