



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

We follow in Jesus' footsteps

Behaviour Policy

April 2026

Mission Statement

'As a Catholic school community, we strive to live as a Christian family, showing our love for God in the way we treat each other with dignity and respect and by promoting the development of each child as a unique individual.'

Principles

Our policy is based on our Catholic ethos and incorporates the following principles:

- our children need to know what is expected of them;
- to support our children effectively, we need to understand and consider their emotions, resilience, challenges and viewpoints;
- all individuals respond more effectively when approached positively and, therefore, when supporting our children, we will try to approach their behaviour in a positive way;
- all members of our school community take responsibility for their own actions and will try to put right their mistakes;
- all members of our school community show tolerance and understanding that all individuals have challenges and that differences are valued.

Aims

- to determine the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- to promote respect for people and property
- to develop patterns of behaviour which will be suitable throughout life
- to promote positive learning behaviours which contribute to effective learning for all pupils

Statutory Duty of the School

The Head teacher and governing body are responsible for promoting good behaviour within the school. The Head teacher ensures this policy is adhered to within the school and is known and understood by parents.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

We believe that following these principles of good practice will encourage appropriate behaviour:

- recognising that children's behaviour is a **form of communication** and try to ascertain and understand the reasons behind the behaviour;
- **setting good habits early**: to help pupils establish regular, punctual attendance and good behaviour from the start, and involving parents in this process;
- **early intervention**: prompt intervention is planned where there is a change in behaviour, inappropriate behaviour or unexplained absence.

Staff at St. Mary's

We recognise the importance of being positive, enthusiastic and having high expectations of both learning and behaviour. We strive to foster a sense of self-esteem in all children as we understand how this can impact on behaviour. Therefore, we will:

- act as role models for behaviour and treat all members of the school community with respect;
- demonstrate in our relationships with the children that each individual, their efforts and achievements are valued;
- reward achievements with positive recognition of individual pupils;
- create and promote an atmosphere of trust, tolerance and respect;
- adhere to the school's 'No shouting' policy;
- provide high quality education through interesting and challenging learning experiences;
- provide opportunities for discussions about acceptable norms;
- employ techniques such as PSHE, My Happy Mind and worship to ensure high standards of behaviour are maintained;
- strive to identify any underlying causes and provide any necessary support;
- make contact with parents at an early stage if behaviour changes or is inappropriate.

Pupils at St. Mary's are nurtured and valued and they are encouraged to:

- be polite, respectful and courteous in all aspects of school life;
- use their time in class well, have a good attitude to learning and allow all the teachers to teach and all members of the class to learn;
- have consideration for others;
- respect and take care of school property and property which belongs to others;
- take responsibility for their actions and reflect on the impact of their behaviour on others;
- be open and honest in discussions about their behaviour;
- contribute ideas in class discussion;
- undertake positions of responsibility and fulfil these roles appropriately;
- behave as role models for other children;
- discuss any worries or concerns with staff ie their class teacher, their key worker or another preferred adult. However, children will always be made aware that staff cannot guarantee confidentiality (depending on the nature of the discussions).

Pupils will also be made aware that the following behaviours are unacceptable:

- using inappropriate language in school, in the dining hall or on the playground ;
- play fighting/wrestling/fighting;

- taking property that doesn't belong to them;
- disrupting lessons;
- leaving lessons/school without permission;
- ignoring staff requests.

Parents and Carers

At St. Mary's, we value and promote positive relationships with parents and carers, especially in regards to behaviour and believe parents and carers should be informed and be part of the ongoing process to commend good behaviour and reduce incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

We aim to achieve this by:

- making them aware of this behaviour policy, the roles and responsibilities of parents/carers, school and pupils and by making the policy available;
- encouraging parents/carers to work with us and support our behaviour management system;
- expecting parental/carer support in any action which may need to be taken as a result of their child's behaviour;
- operating an open-door policy and creating an atmosphere in which parents and carers feel confident and comfortable in approaching the school with any areas of concern at their earliest opportunity;
- providing opportunities for verbal and written reporting on pupil achievement and behaviour;
- encouraging parents and carers to keep teachers informed about any changes in family/personal circumstances which may impact on their child's behaviour;
- informing parents and carers when there is a change in their child's behaviour or significant inappropriate behaviour and any subsequent sanctions.

Governors

- will support the Head teacher in the development and implementation of behaviour strategies;
- will receive information on behaviour of pupils at termly Governors' meetings;
- will monitor the implementation of this policy and review it annually.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

At St. Mary's we believe in celebrating the excellent behaviour of our pupils using positive reinforcement through our in-class Dojo system.

We also recognise there are times when sanctions are necessary. Pupils are made aware of the consequences of their actions and know that if they do certain things, action will be taken.

Children should always be reminded of the choices open to him/her and the consequences of those choices.

Children identified with SEND or any social, emotional or behaviour needs will already have clear targets and strategies which should be incorporated into this process as appropriate.

USE OF TIME OUT

All paid staff have a legal power to put pupils under 18 in 'detention' as a sanction for inappropriate behaviour. At St. Mary's, only teachers can put children into detention. However, if other paid staff feel this is a suitable sanction, they need to discuss this with the class teacher or Pastoral Lead/Team who will make the final decision. Parental consent is not required, although parents will always be informed if this is to take place outside of the normal school day.

At St. Mary's we employ a system of play time and lunch time detentions, known as 'Time out'. Teachers are able to use time out as a sanction for the reasons stated in our staged behaviour management system.

The Pastoral team are responsible for any 'time out' sessions. The children will be given sufficient time to eat, drink and use the toilet. They will then be encouraged to reflect on their actions and how they can make amends.

USE OF RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS

(Please see DfE 'Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools' April 2026)

The use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion, can have a significant impact on the pupils, staff members and parents involved, as well as the wider classroom. However, there are times when the use of restrictive intervention will be lawful and necessary; for example, to keep individuals and the wider community safe.

'Restrictive interventions' is the umbrella term to describe both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain pupils in different ways – they include

- restrictive intervention
- reasonable force
- seclusion

Restrictive Intervention

Restrictive intervention is a means to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of the body, or part of the body of a pupil.

Reasonable Force

At St. Mary's staff use many strategies to maintain good behaviour throughout the school. However, there may be times when a pupil does not respond to the behaviour management structure and, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to use 'reasonable force'. We believe that we have a duty of care to all of the children and staff who make up our school community. Therefore 'reasonable force' may be used in circumstances when not doing so would breach that duty of care to others. However, at all times, the minimum amount of 'reasonable force' will be used to diffuse the situation and the objective will always be to calm any tensions.

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from

- hurting themselves
- hurting others
- damaging property
- making the environment unsafe for themselves and/or others

'Reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point during their career that involves a degree of physical contact with pupils.

'Reasonable' means using no more force than is needed.

'Restraint' means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. Staff will always try to avoid acting in a way that causes injury but in extreme circumstances it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the child.

Restraint techniques will generally be applied by a member of the DSL team. However, there may be times when this is not feasible and a member of staff has to react to a situation immediately.

Certain restraint techniques pose an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people* and therefore the following will **NOT** be used at St. Mary's:

- the double seated embrace (two members of staff force a person into a sitting position and lean them forward)
- the double basket hold (holding a person's arms across their chest)
- the nose distraction technique (a sharp upward jab under the nose)

(* identified by the Physical Control in Care Medical Panel 2008)

Schools **do not** require parental consent to use reasonable force. However, parents will be informed when 'reasonable force' has been used to control their child.

Reasonable force can be used to:

- remove a disruptive child from class when they refuse to follow an instruction to do so
- prevent pupils behaving in a disruptive way
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom when allowing the child to do so would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts others
- prevent a pupil from attacking another pupil or a member of staff
- stop a fight

- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts
- restrain a pupil who is damaging property

Schools cannot use force as a punishment – **this is unlawful.**

Seclusion

This is a non-disciplinary intervention involving keeping a pupil confined to a place away from others when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. The place to which the pupil is confined will feel safe and the pupil will be supervised at all times. As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the pupil should be able to leave.

Please ask in the school office if you would like to see the full Department of Education advice on Restrictive Interventions.

RECORDING AND REPORTING DUTIES

Incidents where staff have used force on a pupil will always be reported to parents, as per school's statutory duties, on the day of the incident. This will be communicated to parents in writing, either by text or ClassDojo (depending on the parental preference). A report of the incident will also be kept on the child's record on CPOMs.

Parents will also be notified of seclusions in the same way.

SUSPENSIONS

At St. Mary's, we recognise the potentially negative impact of suspending children as it leaves them open to further social exclusion which increases the chance of future harm.

The Head teacher can decide to suspend a pupil, for a fixed term or, along with the Governing Body, permanently exclude. In line with the school's behaviour policy, and taking into account all of the circumstances, the Head teacher will balance the needs of the pupil against the needs of the whole school community. However, other proactive measures such as restorative justice, behaviour plans, LA support etc will be used in an attempt to avoid this.

The Head teacher will provide support and advice to parents should their child be suspended/excluded. The school will also endeavour to set work for all suspended pupils during the first five days of any suspension.

PREVENTING BULLYING

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms, including cyber bullying, text messaging, on Facebook or via the internet. It can be motivated by prejudice against certain groups for example on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard to

- eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advancing the equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Please refer to our Anti Bullying policy for more information.

CONFISCATION OF ITEMS

The general power to discipline enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a punishment. Staff are protected against liability for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items provided they have acted lawfully and reasonably. Staff will decide when to return the item. At the discretion of the teacher, certain items will only be returned when a parent/carer is able to collect.

Confiscation of Prohibited Items

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, a member of the DSL team can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following prohibited items:

- knives and weapons e.g. BB guns, slingshots etc.
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been used or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property

Weapons and knives and extreme or child pornography must be handed to the police.

Otherwise, the confiscated item(s) will be kept until a parent/carer is able to collect the item(s) from school.

CONSULTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The application of this policy is monitored, reviewed and evaluated by the Governors of St. Mary's and reviewed annually.

If you would like a paper copy of this policy, please ask at the school office.

Written by Julie Beard	Family Support Worker and Lead DSL	April 2026
Approved by Louise O'Mahony	Head teacher	April 2026
Approved by Tony Matthews	Chair of Governors	April 2026
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