

Governors Statement on Behaviour

Rationale and Purpose

This statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act, 2006, and DfE guidance (Behaviour and discipline in Schools, 2015) and is informed by the expectations and schools ethos and values.

The purpose of the Statement is to provide guidance to the Head Teacher in drawing up the school's Behaviour Policy so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of all stakeholders in the school; governors, staff, parents and students and allows school staff to be aware of and understand the extent of their powers in respect of recognition and reward for good behaviour, discipline and sanctions for unacceptable behaviour and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they will always have the Governors' support when following this guidance.

This is a statement of principles, not practice: it is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to draw up the school's behaviour policy, though the Head Teacher must take account of these principles when formulating this policy. The Head Teacher should also take account of the guidance in DfE publication Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: a guide for Headteachers and school staff (January 2016).

The Behaviour Policy is to be published on the school website, shared with all members of staff via INSET and available to all on request.

Principles

The school's primary concern is the safety, wellbeing and education of all pupils; actions taken in cases of bad behaviour are with the intention of upholding their wellbeing and academic progress, as well as fulfilling our safeguarding responsibilities.

All members of the school community must be treated inclusively and be free from any form of discrimination or prejudice – whether it be on the grounds of race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, pregnancy and maternity, or marriage/civil partnership as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010.

The school will create and maintain an atmosphere and ethos of tolerance, equality, diversity, respect, understanding, kindness and a sense of citizenship throughout the school community in everyday practise.

All children, staff and visitors should feel safe in the school environment at all times through a high quality of care, support and guidance.

All pupils have a right to fulfil their greatest academic and personal potential and feel they are valued members of the school by both their peers and school staff, and should be free from bullying, discrimination and distracting peer behaviour.

Rules are to be consistently applied across the school and where sanctions and punishments are exercised, they should be proportionate to the misdemeanour and in line with the school's Behaviour and Exclusion Policies.

Good behaviour around school is to be acknowledged and rewarded at the discretion of staff.

At Leytonstone School, we want to foster a community and collective ethos amongst all members of the school and promote values of kindness, empathy, teamwork and respect.

Parents/carers should be encouraged and helped to support their children's education, just as the students should be helped to understand their responsibilities during their time within the school. The responsibilities of students, parents/carers and school staff with respect to students' behaviour must be covered in the 'Home-School Agreement' which students and parents/carers must be asked to sign when a child joins the school.

In cases of problematic pupil behaviour, regardless of how sustained and disruptive, the pupil's out-of-school circumstances and possible special educational needs and disabilities must be taken into account. Comprehensive support is given before or alongside disciplinary measures.

Any kind of violence, threatening behaviour or abuse between pupils, or by pupils/parents/carers towards the school's staff, will not be tolerated. If a parent/carer does not conduct himself/herself properly, the school reserves the right to ban them from the school premises and, if the parent/carer continues to cause disturbance, he or she may be liable to prosecution.

Guidance on the use of reasonable force will be agreed upon by the Head Teacher and governing body and clearly set out within the school's behaviour policy.

School Policies should set out the disciplinary action that will be taken against students who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff and the pastoral support that school staff should expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers. Policies should also make clear the actions that can be taken against any staff in the event of breaches of the school's professional expectations and the support offered to pupils in these circumstances.

General Expectations

- All members of the school community should be aware of behavioural expectations and the relevant policies, and agree to them as fair and reasonable. These will be made readily available to read and general expectations will be displayed in classrooms and around the school.
- Polite and considerate behaviour is to be maintained by all around the school, both in and out of the classroom.
- Offensive or insulting language is not to be used in any circumstances, deliberately or otherwise.
- Each pupil receives the necessary behavioural support according to their specific needs.
- Bullying (and cyber-bullying) is not tolerated and pupils should report any case of bullying they experience or observe to school staff.
- Pupils should help staff by showing good behaviour in the classroom, not distracting themselves or others from important learning.
- Staff will lead by example and model their conduct in line with the school's standards.
- To keep the pupils and staff safe, the Head Teacher will utilise their powers to search or use reasonable force in order to keep individuals from harming, or further harming, themselves or others.
- Everyone in the Leytonstone School community should understand that the school's emphasis is on encouraging and praising good behaviour and supporting individuals who are struggling to meet the expected behavioural standards.

This written statement, and the policies that are influenced by it, applies to all students and staff inside and outside of the school, when acting as ambassadors, when engaged in extra-curricular activities such as educational trips and visits (residential and non-residential) and when being educated as a member of Leytonstone School.