

POLICY

POLICY TYPE

MAT Policy to adopted in full across all schools	
LGC Policy to be reviewed and approved locally	✓



*"Share the Love of God,
every day in everything
we learn, do and say"*

Approval Date:	2026/27 – AUTUMN TERM
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ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

This policy is shaped by our school Mission, Vision and Values, which guide all that we do:

With Christ at the centre,
We strive for excellence,
Acting with respect and
serve our community.

Our Vision is:
To share our love of God every day in everything we learn, do and say.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Create a positive culture that promotes excellent behaviour, ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to learn in a calm, safe and supportive environment
- Establish a whole-school approach to maintaining high standards of behaviour that reflect the values of the school
- Outline the expectations and consequences of behaviour
- Provide a consistent approach to behaviour management that is applied equally to all pupils
- Define what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and discrimination

2. Legislation, statutory requirements and guidance

This policy is based on legislation and advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Searching, screening and confiscation in schools
- The Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026
- Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement
- Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

In addition, this policy is based on:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which outlines a school's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of its pupils
- Sections 88 to 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which requires schools to regulate pupils' behaviour and publish a behaviour policy and written statement of behaviour principles, and gives schools the authority to confiscate pupils' property
- DfE guidance explaining that maintained schools must publish their behaviour policy online
- Schedule 1 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014; paragraph 7 outlines a school's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, paragraph 9 requires the school to have a written behaviour policy, and paragraph 10 requires the school to have an anti-bullying strategy
- This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes

- Non-completion of classwork or homework
- Poor attitude
- Incorrect uniform

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of the school rules
- Any form of child-on-child abuse, including but may not be limited to:
 - Bullying
 - Abuse in personal relationships between children
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual violence including intentional sexual touching without consent
 - Sexual harassment, meaning unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual comments, physical behaviour, and online sexual harassment
 - Upskirting
 - Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Misogyny/misandry
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting
- Smoking
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Possession of any prohibited/banned items. These are:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Stolen items
 - Tobacco and cigarette papers
 - E-cigarettes or vapes
 - Fireworks
 - Pornographic images
 - Any article a staff member reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)

4. Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobic/biphobic • Transphobic • Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos (including pseudo-images, which are computer-generated images that otherwise appear to be a photograph or video), or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites, devices or via images, audio, video, or written content generated by artificial intelligence (AI)

Details of our approach to preventing and addressing bullying is set out in our Anti-bullying Strategy Policy.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for monitoring this behaviour policy's effectiveness and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

5.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Reviewing this policy in conjunction with the local governing committee
- Ensuring that the school environment encourages positive behaviour
- Ensuring that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour
- Monitoring that the policy is implemented by staff consistently with all groups of pupils
- Ensuring that all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them
- Providing new staff with a clear induction into the school's behavioural culture to ensure they understand its rules and routines, and how best to support all pupils to participate fully
- Offering appropriate training in behaviour management, and the impact of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and mental health needs on behaviour, to any staff who require it, so they can fulfil their duties set out in this policy
- Ensuring this policy works alongside the safeguarding policy to offer pupils both sanctions and support when necessary
- Ensuring that the data from the behaviour log is reviewed regularly, to make sure that no groups of pupils are being disproportionately impacted by this policy (see section 13.1)

5.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Creating a calm and safe environment for pupils
- Establishing and maintaining clear boundaries of acceptable pupil behaviour

- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Communicating the school's expectations, routines, values and standards through teaching behaviour and in every interaction with pupils
- Modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular pupils
- Recognising hidden stressors for vulnerable pupils, such as young carers or looked-after children, to ensure empathetic and supportive responses to their behaviour
- Considering the impact of their own behaviour on the school culture and how they can uphold school rules and expectations
- Using de-escalation techniques and positive behaviour management strategies to try to minimise and prevent the need for restrictive interventions
- Recording behaviour incidents promptly (see appendix 3 for a behaviour log)
- Challenging pupils to meet the school's expectations

The senior leadership team (SLT) will support staff in responding to behaviour incidents.

5.4 Parents and carers

Parents and carers, where possible, should:

- Get to know the school's behaviour policy and reinforce it at home where appropriate
- Support their child in adhering to the school's behaviour policy
- Inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly
- Take part in any pastoral work following misbehaviour (for example, attending reviews of specific behaviour interventions)
- Raise any concerns about the management of behaviour with the school directly, while continuing to work in partnership with the school
- Take part in the life of the school and its culture

The school will endeavour to build a positive relationship with parents and carers by keeping them informed about developments in their child's behaviour and the school's policy, and working in collaboration with them to tackle behavioural issues.

5.5 Pupils

Pupils will be made aware of the following during their induction into the behaviour culture:

- The expected standard of behaviour they should be displaying at school
- That they have a duty to follow the behaviour policy
- The school's key rules and routines
- The rewards they can earn for meeting the behaviour standards, and the consequences they will face if they don't meet the standards
- The pastoral support that is available to them to help them meet the behaviour standards

Pupils will be supported to meet the behaviour standards and will be provided with repeated induction sessions wherever appropriate.

Pupils will be supported to develop an understanding of the school's behaviour policy and wider culture. Pupils will be asked to give feedback on their experience of the behaviour culture to support the evaluation, improvement and implementation of the behaviour policy.

Extra support and induction will be provided for pupils who are mid-phase arrivals.

6. School behaviour curriculum

Pupils are expected to:

- Behave in an orderly and self-controlled way
- Show respect to members of staff and each other
- In class, make it possible for all pupils to learn

- Move quietly around the school
- Treat the school buildings and school property with respect
- Wear the correct uniform at all times
- Accept sanctions when given
- Refrain from behaving in a way that brings the school into disrepute, including when outside school or online

Where appropriate and reasonable, adjustments may be made to routines within the curriculum to ensure all pupils can meet behavioural expectations in the curriculum.

6.1 Mobile phones

Please refer to our online safety mobile phone policy.

7. Responding to behaviour

7.1 Classroom management

Teaching and support staff are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the school.

They will:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages pupils to be engaged
- Develop a positive relationship with pupils, which may include:
 - Greeting pupils in the morning/at the start of lessons
 - Establishing clear routines
 - Communicating expectations of behaviour
 - Highlighting and promoting good behaviour
 - Using positive reinforcement

7.2 Safeguarding

The school recognises that:

- Changes in behaviour may be an indicator that a pupil is in need of help or protection
- Specific circumstances, such as being a young carer, looked-after child, or living in a vulnerable household, can significantly affect behaviour
- We will consider whether a pupil's misbehaviour may be linked to them suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm

Where this may be the case, we will follow our child protection and safeguarding policy, and consider whether pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate. Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information.

7.3 Responding to positive behaviour

When a pupil's behaviour meets or goes above and beyond the expected behaviour standard, staff will recognise it with positive recognition and reward. This provides an opportunity for all staff to reinforce the school's culture and ethos.

Positive reinforcements and rewards will be applied clearly and fairly to reinforce the routines, expectations and norms of the school's behaviour culture.

Positive behaviour will be rewarded with:

- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents/carers verbally or via seesaw
- Certificates, prize ceremonies or special assemblies
- Positions of responsibility, such as prefect status or being entrusted with a particular decision or project
- Whole-class or year group rewards, such as a popular activity

7.4 Responding to poor behaviour

When a pupil's behaviour falls below the standard that can reasonably be expected of them, staff will respond in order to restore a calm and safe learning environment, and to prevent recurrence of misbehaviour.

Staff will endeavour to create a predictable environment by always challenging behaviour that falls short of the standards, and by responding in a consistent, fair and proportionate manner, so pupils know with certainty that misbehaviour will always be addressed.

De-escalation techniques, including the use of pre-arranged scripts and phrases, can be used to help prevent further behaviour issues arising, including situations where staff may need to use a restrictive intervention. See our policy on the use of restrictive interventions for more detail on prevention and de-escalation strategies.

All pupils will be treated equitably under the policy, with any factors that contributed to the behavioural incident identified (e.g. whether a pupil has specific vulnerabilities) and taken into account.

When giving behaviour sanctions, staff will also consider what support could be offered to a pupil to help them to meet behaviour standards in the future.

The school may use 1 or more of the following sanctions in response to unacceptable behaviour:

- A verbal reprimand and reminder of the expectations of behaviour
- Sending the pupil out of the class
- Setting of written tasks such as an account of their behaviour
- Expecting work to be completed at home, or at break or lunchtime
- Detention at break or lunchtime, or after school
- Loss of privileges – for instance, the loss of a prized responsibility
- School-based community service, such as tidying a classroom
- Referring the pupil to a senior member of staff
- Letter or phone call home to parents/carers
- Agreeing a behaviour contract
- Putting a pupil 'on report'
- Removal of the pupil from the classroom
- Suspension
- Permanent exclusion, in the most serious of circumstances

Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Graduated Behaviour Response

The school uses a clear graduated approach to behaviour. The stages provide a framework for consistent and proportionate responses but are not a rigid sequence. Staff should use professional judgement based on the frequency, seriousness, context and impact of the behaviour.

Staff should consider safeguarding, SEND, disability, communication needs and other relevant circumstances, making reasonable adjustments where appropriate. Where safeguarding concerns arise, the safeguarding response takes priority.

Stage One – Behaviour Management

Stage One is the normal response to low-level behaviour that does not meet school expectations.

Staff may:

- give a clear reminder of expected behaviour;
- redirect or refocus the pupil;
- offer a choice or opportunity to make a positive decision;
- use praise and positive reinforcement;
- reinforce classroom or school routines;
- change seating where appropriate;
- use a brief restorative or reflective conversation;

- support the pupil to regulate and return to learning; and
- use other appropriate classroom management strategies.

The aim is to address behaviour calmly and proportionately and support the pupil to return successfully to learning.

Repeated Stage One behaviour may lead to Stage Two.

Stage Two – Formal Behaviour Response

Stage Two may be used where behaviour is repeated, Stage One strategies have not been effective, the impact on learning or others is increasing, or the behaviour requires a formal response.

Responses may include:

- loss of part or all of recreation time;
- loss of a role or responsibility;
- supervised reflection;
- change of seating;
- supervised removal to another classroom or appropriate space; or
- another reasonable and proportionate consequence.

Responses must take account of the pupil's age, understanding and circumstances. Staff should help the pupil understand what happened, its impact, what they could do differently and how to return positively to learning.

From Stage Two, incidents must be recorded on CPOMS and parents/carers informed. Records should be clear, objective and include the behaviour, context, response and follow-up action.

Repeated Stage Two incidents may lead to Stage Three.

Stage Three – Individual Behaviour Support

Stage Three may be used where behaviour is persistent, escalating, has a significant impact on others, occurs across different settings, does not respond sufficiently to Stage Two strategies, or indicates that additional support may be required.

The Senior Leadership Team will review the concerns and, where appropriate:

- give the pupil an opportunity to discuss their behaviour;
- consider triggers, patterns, causes and support needs;
- involve parents/carers;
- review previous strategies and consequences;
- consult the SENCo where SEND, disability or additional needs may be relevant;
- consider safeguarding and risk assessment requirements; and
- put in place an Individual Behaviour Support Plan (IBSP).

The IBSP should identify the behaviours of concern, relevant triggers or patterns, clear targets, agreed strategies and reasonable adjustments, responsible adults, appropriate support, success measures and a review date.

External support will be considered where appropriate.

The plan will be reviewed daily to ensure progress towards targets.

The incident must be recorded on CPOMS and parents/carers informed.

Stage Four – Formal Senior Leadership Response

Stage Four may be used where behaviour remains serious or persistent despite appropriate support, has escalated significantly, presents a significant impact on safety, wellbeing or education, or requires a formal Senior Leadership Team or Headteacher response.

The Senior Leadership Team and/or Headteacher will consider:

- behaviour history and previous interventions;
- the pupil's views, age and circumstances;
- SEND, disability and reasonable adjustments;

- safeguarding and welfare;
- relevant risk assessments;
- whether further internal or external support is required.

Further measures may include:

- revised risk-management arrangements;
- lawful off-site direction;
- managed move arrangements;
- consideration of suspension or exclusion where policy and statutory guidance permit.

A pupil does not have to progress through every stage before a serious response is taken.

Suspension and permanent exclusion are serious measures and will be considered and implemented in accordance with the St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions Policy and current Department for Education statutory guidance.

7.5 Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force

Our approach to restrictive interventions follows the DfE's latest guidance on restrictive interventions. Restrictive interventions are used to prevent, restrict, or subdue movement of the body or part of the body of a pupil. It describes both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain pupils in different ways.

Our staff understand that any form of force or restraint carries a risk of physical and psychological harm, so we always avoid using these measures where possible.

7.6 Child-on-child abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up", as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils.

All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under this policy.

Where allegations raise safeguarding concerns, this will be managed under our safeguarding policy. Our safeguarding policy contains further information on how we prevent and manage incidents of child-on-child abuse.

7.7 Off-site misbehaviour

Sanctions may be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site when representing the school. This means misbehaviour when the pupil is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity (e.g. school trips)
- Travelling to or from school
- Wearing school uniform
- In any other way identifiable as a pupil of our school

Sanctions may also be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site, at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misbehaviour:

- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- Poses a threat to another pupil
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school

Sanctions will only be given out on school premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of a staff member (e.g. on a school-organised trip).

7.8 Online misbehaviour

The school can issue behaviour sanctions to pupils for online misbehaviour when:

- It poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil

- It could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- It adversely affects the reputation of the school
- The pupil is identifiable as a member of the school

Sanctions will only be given out on school premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of a staff member.

7.9 Suspected criminal behaviour

If a pupil is suspected of criminal behaviour, the school will make an initial assessment of whether to report the incident to the police.

When establishing the facts, the school will endeavour to preserve any relevant evidence to hand over to the police.

If a decision is made to report the matter to the police, the Headteacher will make the report.

If a report to the police is made, the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will make a tandem report to children's social care, if appropriate.

7.10 Zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence

The school will ensure that all incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence are met with a suitable response, and never ignored.

Pupils are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable, no matter how 'small' they feel it might be.

The school's response will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

The school has procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing. These include clear processes for:

- Responding to a report
- Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:
 - Manage the incident internally
 - Refer to early help
 - Refer to children's social care
 - Report to the police

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information.

7.11 Malicious allegations

Where a pupil makes an allegation against a member of staff and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether to discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.

In all cases where an allegation is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the school (in collaboration with the local authority designated officer (LADO), where relevant) will consider whether the pupil who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help. If so, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

The school will also consider the pastoral needs of staff and pupils accused of misconduct.

8. Responding to misbehaviour from pupils with SEND

8.1 Recognising the impact of SEND on behaviour

The school recognises that pupils' behaviour may be impacted by a special educational need or disability (SEND). Pupils with SEND may react to distressing or confusing situations by displaying behaviours which may be harmful to themselves and others. Pupils who have difficulty communicating verbally might

show their needs and discomfort through their actions.

When incidents of misbehaviour arise, we will consider them in relation to a pupil's SEND, although we recognise that not every incident of misbehaviour will be connected to their SEND. Decisions on whether a pupil's SEND had an impact on an incident of misbehaviour will be made on a case-by-case basis. When dealing with misbehaviour from pupils with SEND, especially where their SEND affects their behaviour, the school will take its legal duties into account when making decisions about enforcing the behaviour policy. The legal duties include:

- Taking reasonable steps to avoid any substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil being caused by the school's policies or practices (Equality Act 2010)
- Using our best endeavours to meet the needs of pupils with SEND (Children and Families Act 2014)
- If a pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, the provisions set out in that plan must be secured and the school must co-operate with the local authority and other bodies

As part of meeting these duties, the school will anticipate, as far as possible, all likely triggers of misbehaviour, and put in place support, including behaviour support plans where appropriate, to prevent these from occurring.

Any preventative measures will take into account the specific circumstances and requirements of the pupil concerned.

8.2 Adapting sanctions for pupils with SEND

When considering a behavioural sanction for a pupil with SEND, the school will consider whether:

- The pupil was unable to understand the rule or instruction
- The pupil was unable to act differently at the time as a result of their SEND
- The pupil was likely to behave aggressively due to their particular SEND

The school will then assess whether it is appropriate to use a sanction and if so, whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the sanction.

8.3 Considering whether a pupil displaying challenging behaviour may have unidentified SEND

The school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) may evaluate a pupil who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met.

Where necessary, support and advice will also be sought from specialist teachers, an educational psychologist, medical practitioners and/or others, to identify or support specific needs.

When acute needs are identified in a pupil, we will liaise with external agencies and plan support programmes for that child. We will work with parents/carers to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

8.4 Pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan

The provisions set out in the EHC plan must be secured and the school will co-operate with the local authority and other bodies.

If the school has a concern about the behaviour of a pupil with an EHC plan, it will make contact with the local authority to discuss the matter. If appropriate, the school may request an emergency review of the EHC plan.

9. Supporting pupils following a sanction

Following a sanction, the school will consider strategies to help the pupil to understand how to improve their behaviour and meet the expectations of the school.

10. Pupil transition

10.1 Inducting incoming pupils

The school will support incoming pupils to meet behaviour standards by offering an induction process to familiarise them with the behaviour policy and the wider school culture.

10.2 Preparing outgoing pupils for transition

To ensure a smooth transition to the next year, pupils have transition sessions with their new teacher(s). In addition, staff members hold transition meetings.

To ensure behaviour is continually monitored and the right support is in place, information relating to pupil behaviour issues may be transferred to relevant staff at the start of the term or year.

11. Training

As part of their induction process, our staff are provided with regular training on managing behaviour, including training on:

- The safe and lawful use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions
- The needs of the pupils at the school
- How SEND, mental health needs and personal circumstances can impact behaviour
- Trauma-informed practice and behaviour management

Behaviour management will also form part of continuing professional development.

12. Monitoring arrangements

12.1 Monitoring and evaluating behaviour

The school will collect data on the following:

- Behavioural incidents, including removal from the classroom
- Attendance, permanent exclusions and suspensions
- Use of pupil support units, off-site directions and managed moves
- Incidents involving restrictive intervention, including the use of reasonable force
- Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation
- Perceptions and experiences of the school behaviour culture for staff, pupils, governors and other stakeholders

The data will be analysed from a variety of perspectives including:

- At school level
- By age group
- At the level of individual members of staff
- By time of day/week/term
- By protected characteristic

The school will use the results of this analysis to make sure it is meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. If any trends or disparities between groups of pupils are identified by this analysis, the school will review its policies to tackle them.

12.2 Monitoring this policy

This behaviour policy will be reviewed by the headteacher annually, or more frequently, if needed, to address findings from the regular monitoring of the behaviour data (as per section 12.1).

13. Links with other policies

This behaviour policy is linked to the following policies:

- Exclusions policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Restrictive interventions policy
- Mobile phone policy
- Online safety policy
- Anti-bullying strategy

