



Governors' Statement of General Principles with Regard to Behaviour

Policy written – May 2021

Reviewed – June 2023

To be reviewed – June 2025

The Acorn Federation
Governors' Statement of General Principles with Regard to Behaviour

Rationale and purpose:

1. This statement has been drawn up in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act, 2006, and DfE guidance (Behaviour and Discipline in Schools, 2012).
2. The purpose of the statement is to provide guidance for the headteacher in drawing up the Behaviour Policy for each school so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of governors, staff and parents of the children in the federation as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters. It is intended to help all federation staff to be aware of and understand the extent of their powers in respect of discipline and sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the governors' support when following this guidance.
3. This is a statement of principles, not practice: it is the responsibility of the headteacher to draw up the school's Behaviour Policy, though she must take account of these principles when formulating this. The headteacher is also asked to take account of the guidance in DfE publication Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: a guide for headteachers and school staff.
4. The Behaviour Policy must be publicised, in writing, to staff, parents/carers and children and available on each school website.

Principles:

1. **High standards of behaviour:** The governors of The Acorn Federation strongly believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enables all its children to make the best possible progress in all aspects of their school life and work and all staff to be able to teach and promote good learning without interruption.
2. **Right to feel safe at all times:** All children and staff have the right to feel safe at all times in school. There should be mutual respect between staff and children and between children. All visitors to the school should feel safe and free from the effects of poor behaviour at all times and in all parts of the school.
3. **Inclusivity:** The Acorn Federation is an inclusive school. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010). To this end the school must have a clear and comprehensive Anti-bullying Statement that is known and understood by all, consistently applied and monitored for its effectiveness. Measures to protect pupils from bullying and discrimination as a result of gender, race, ability, sexual orientation or background should be clearly set out and regularly monitored for their effective implementation.
4. **Equality:** Each school's legal duties under the Equality Act, 2010 in respect of safeguarding pupils with Special Educational Needs and all vulnerable pupils should be set out in the Behaviour Policy and made known to all staff.
5. **Home-School Agreement:** Parents/carers should be encouraged and helped to support their children's education, just as the children should be helped to understand their responsibilities during their time at school. The responsibilities of children, parents/carers and school staff with respect to children's behaviour must be outlined in the 'Home-School

Agreement' which children and parents/carers must be asked to sign when a child joins the school.

6. **School Rules:** The School Rules should be clearly stated in the Behaviour Policy. These should set out expected standards of behaviour, should be displayed in all classrooms and other, relevant parts of the school and shared with and explained to all children. The governors expect the rules to be consistently applied by all staff.
7. **Rewards:** Governors would like to see a wide range of rewards consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere. These should be made clear in the Behaviour Policy.
8. **Unacceptable/poor behaviour:** Sanctions for unacceptable/poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and children and consistently applied. The range of sanctions should be described in the Behaviour Policy so that children, staff and parents can understand how and when these are applied. The governors strongly feel that exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, must be used only as a very last resort.
9. **The policies should include the following in some detail:**
 - a. *Power to use reasonable force or make physical contact:* the situations in which reasonable force may be used (including removing disruptive pupils from classrooms, or preventing them from leaving). A definition of 'reasonable force' should be included, which should also explain how and when pupils may be restrained. Governors would expect appropriate staff to be trained in the use of reasonable force and restraint.
 - b. *The power to discipline outside the school gates:* disciplining beyond the school gates covers the school's response to misbehaviour and bullying that occurs anywhere off the school premises that is witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the school. This includes any misbehaviour when the child is taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity.

Review:

This Statement of Principles will be reviewed every two years, or as necessary. Each school's Behaviour Policy will be reviewed annually.

Associated resources

www.education.gov.uk

A guide to the law for school governors

Equality Act 2010

Use of Reasonable Force

*Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff**

** Pastoral care for school staff*

Employers should not automatically suspend a member of staff who has been accused of misconduct, pending an investigation. The governing body advises the head teacher to draw on the advice in the 'Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff' guidance when setting out the pastoral support school staff can expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers.