

Behaviour principles written statement

Published: Autumn 2026
Review Date: Annual
Committee Responsible: Full Governing Body

The Education and Inspectors Act 2006 and DfE guidance (Behaviour in Schools, 2012) requires the governors to make and frequently review a written statement of general behaviour principles to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour.

This is a statement of principles, not practice.

Practical applications of these principles are the responsibility of the Headteacher. The statement has been adopted by the Governing Body as a whole and is informed by our mission and value statements. It is intended to help all school 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.

Behaviour Principles

At St James C of E Primary School it is recognised that positive behaviour is a necessary prerequisite to effective teaching, learning and enjoyment whilst at school. The Headteacher, staff and governors at St James value good behaviour and see the school's role as enabling its pupils to act wisely and responsibly, making the choices which will lead them to becoming thoughtful and reliable citizens, respecting others regardless of differences in race, ethnic origin, gender orientation or disability.

All aspects of behaviour management and discipline are built on the foundations of our Christian values (Love, Unity, Respect and Courage) and include the recognition of the Fundamental British Values. As a school, we aspire to deliver the highest possible standards of education. For this to be effective, we all recognise that we must create an environment where our pupils, staff and parents/carers feel safe, nurtured, and respected.

Vulnerable children, including looked after children, children with special educational needs, physical or mental health needs, will receive behavioural support according to their need.

Any actions or policies should be in accordance with the responsibility of the school under equality legislation.

- At St James we believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school.
- St James C of E Primary School is an inclusive school; all members of the school community should be free from discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- The school will fulfil its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of safeguarding children with special educational needs and all vulnerable children.
- We value the development of strong, positive and appropriate relationships among all members of our school community.
- Every child has the right to learn but no child has the right to disrupt the learning of others.
- We believe that all members of our school community should be able to learn and achieve in a safe, secure and purposeful environment.
- We have high expectations of everyone and we will actively promote equality of value whether race, gender, age, sexuality, religion or disability.

- All pupils, staff and visitors are free from any form of discrimination.
- Everyone has a right to be listened to.
- It is expected that all adults – staff, volunteers and governors – will set excellent examples to the children at all times.
- Rewards, sanctions and reasonable force are used consistently by staff, in line with the Behaviour Policy and Physical Intervention Policy.
- All rewards and sanctions must have regard to the individual situation and the individual student.
- Families are proactively involved in behaviour incidents to foster good relationships between the school and pupil's home life.
- Pupils are helped to take responsibility for their actions.
- The Behaviour Policy is understood by all pupils and staff.
- The school's Behaviour Policy will ensure that there are measures to encourage good behaviour, self-discipline and respect, and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils.
- The school's Behaviour Policy will clearly reflect the school's approach to exclusions. The Governing Body supports the school's authority to consider exclusion, particularly those that are permanent, as the very last resort.

The Governing Body also emphasises that violence or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated in any circumstances.

This written statement of behaviour principles is reviewed and approved by the Full Governing Body every year.