

THE CHARTER SCHOOLS

EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Behaviour principles written statement

Approved by the Trust Board 11th October 2023

The Charter Schools Educational Trust believe that a safe, caring and friendly environment in each of our schools creates a positive backdrop for effective teaching and learning, supports good mental health and wellbeing, and promotes equality and inclusion for all.

The Trust Board has approved this statement, believing that for effective learning and wholehearted support for its schools' staff, there needs to be a strong consensus between parents, pupils and staff on what constitutes acceptable behaviour and fair discipline.

The Trust recognises the rights and responsibilities of all members of its schools' communities, and therefore expect all pupils, parents, staff, trustees, governors and visitors to show due respect and courtesy to one another.

This document is not policy or practice, rather it is a statement to set out the Trust's broad principles and values regarding behaviour that is both expected and promoted within its schools. The practical applications of these principles are the responsibility of the Headteacher (read also Principal), who will view each case in light of these principles and any relevant Trust or school policies.

Principles

- The Trust's primary concern is the safety, wellbeing and education of all pupils; actions taken in cases of poor behaviour are with the intention of supporting pupils' wellbeing and academic progress, as well as fulfilling the Trust's safeguarding responsibilities to pupils, staff and other members of its communities.
- The Trust aims to foster a collective ethos amongst all members of its communities and promote the Trust values:
We are evidence informed; We achieve together; We act with integrity; We are inclusive.
- All members of the Trust and its schools' communities must be treated inclusively and be free from any form of discrimination or prejudice.
- 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 our schools by both their peers and school staff, and should be free from bullying, discrimination, and distracting or damaging peer behaviour.
- Guidance on the use of reasonable force in certain circumstances when dealing with pupil behaviour will be agreed upon by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body, and clearly set out within the school specific Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.
- Rules will be consistently applied within our schools and where sanctions and punishments are exercised, they should be proportionate to the misdemeanour, and in line with the school specific Behaviour Policy.

- Good behaviour will be acknowledged and rewarded at the discretion of school staff, who will judge appropriately.
- In cases of problematic pupil behaviour, regardless of how sustained and disruptive, the individual pupil's out-of-school circumstances and possible special educational needs and disabilities will be considered. Comprehensive support will be provided before or alongside any disciplinary measures – suspensions and exclusions are to be used only as a last resort and where other intervention measures fail.
- Any kind of violence, threatening behaviour or abuse between pupils, or by pupils towards the school's staff, will not be tolerated and will result in a sanction, which could include a fixed term suspension, and potentially a permanent exclusion following a full investigation.
- If a parent/carer does not conduct themselves properly and uses violence, threatening behaviour or verbal abuse towards any member of the school community, the school has the right to ban them from the school premises and, if the parent/carer continues to cause a disturbance, they may be liable to prosecution.

General expectations

- All members of the Trust communities 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 on the school websites and general expectations will be displayed in classrooms and around the school, for example in reception for visitors to view.
- Polite and considerate behaviour is to be maintained by everyone in our schools, both in and out of the classroom.
- Offensive, insulting, or prejudicial language is not to be used in any circumstances, deliberately or otherwise. Depending on the circumstances, use of offensive, insulting or prejudicial language could result in pupil sanctions, staff disciplinary action, or parental sanctions. In the most serious cases this could lead to prosecution.
- Each pupil will receive the necessary behavioural support according to their specific needs.
- Bullying, including on-line (cyber) bullying is not tolerated and pupils should report any case of bullying they experience or observe to school staff.
- Pupils will support their learning and help staff by showing good behaviour in the classroom, engaging positively in their learning, and not distracting themselves or others from important learning.
- Staff will lead by example and model their behaviours in line with the Trust's standards.
- To keep the pupils and staff safe, the Headteachers are authorised to use their powers to search or use reasonable force to keep individuals from harming, or further harming, themselves or others.
- Everyone in the Trust's community should understand that the emphasis is on teaching 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 pupils and staff inside and outside of our schools, 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 any of the schools within The Charter Schools Educational Trust.