

Behaviour Policy

Adopted: Jan 2022

Review date: January 2023

Ladysmith Schools are dedicated to ensuring that our school environment supports learning and the wellbeing of students and staff through a strong sense of community cohesion. Cooperation, support, and respect are the foundations of our community and we work hard to provide a safe school where students feel included in every aspect of school life and comfortable to voice their opinions.

This policy outlines what we expect from all our students in terms of their behaviour, and the sanctions that will be enforced if this policy is not adhered to. It extends to all members of our school community and is written in line with our governing body's statement of behaviour principals. Good behaviour and self-discipline have strong links to effective learning, and are vital for pupils to carry with them both during and after their school years.

1. Aims

Ladysmith Schools believe that all pupils should be aware of the standards of behaviour that are expected of them, and take responsibility for promoting these standards. We hope that by encouraging positive behaviour patterns we can promote good relationships throughout the school built on trust and understanding, and that through the use of this policy we can support all of our students in developing a high level of social awareness. Our aim is to ensure that all our students leave the school with the key skills they need to continue to progress to the best of their ability in all areas of life.

2. Standards of behaviour

2.1 School

The school understands that the first step to modelling good behaviour is to lead by example, which means that all staff, volunteers, and anyone else who comes to the school must act responsibly and professionally, and will never denigrate students or colleagues. We work hard to ensure that discipline is consistent across the school so that behaviour boundaries and sanctions are clear to all and are applied fairly, proportionately, and without discrimination, taking into account SEN needs and disabilities as well as the additional challenges that some vulnerable students may face. Staff are trained to deal with behavioural strategies as part of their continual professional development, and are well informed of the extent of their disciplinary authority.

We work with parents to understand their children and their behaviour and believe that in conjunction with behaviour boundaries and sanctions, good support systems, praise, and rewards for good behaviour are an important part of building an effective learning community. The school will report behaviour, good or bad, to parents regularly. We encourage parents to communicate with the school if they have a concern about their child's behaviour, and we will do as much as is possible to support parents as and when they need it. We promote good behaviour within the school curriculum and reminders of school rules and expected standards of behaviour are up on walls in classrooms and situated around the school.

Staff are a constant presence around the school, in-between classes, during breaks in the school day, and at lunch times, to check that students are using the school grounds respectfully and behaving appropriately.

The school will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff and this includes protection from bullying. We aim to combat bullying and other harmful behaviour using, amongst others, preventative strategies through the active development of pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills. For more information, see section 5 of this policy.

2.2 Students

The school expects all of its students to show respect to one another, to school staff, and anyone else that they may meet. Incidents of bullying, denigration, or bringing intentional harm to other students or staff will not be tolerated. Pupils are ambassadors to our school even when off school premises, and we expect them to act accordingly. They are expected to obey school rules, listen, follow instructions by staff, and accept and learn from any sanctions that they receive. This extends to any arrangements put in place to support their behaviour, such as pastoral support programmes or parenting contracts. School work and homework should be well presented, completed to a high standard, and handed in on time. Failure to hand in work on time will lead to disciplinary sanctions. If students are struggling to meet the requirements of their workload for any reason, they should discuss this with their teacher who will work with them to draw up a support plan. The school asks that pupils carefully read and then sign a **home-school agreement** to show that they have understood what is expected of them and acknowledge the responsibility that they have for their own behaviour.

Under no circumstances will illegal or inappropriate items be brought into school, and all students will respect and look after the school premises and environment. The following behaviour is regarded as completely unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions and possibly in exclusion, depending on the circumstances. For more information on exclusions, see our **exclusion policy**.

- verbal abuse to staff and others
- verbal abuse to pupils
- physical abuse to/attack on staff
- physical abuse to/attack on pupils
- unacceptable behaviour online including social media
- indecent behaviour
- damage to property
- misuse of illegal drugs
- misuse of other substances
- theft
- serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- sexual abuse or assault
- supplying an illegal drug
- carrying an offensive weapon
- arson
- unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour.

2.3 Parents

Parents play a big part in ensuring that their children are responsible for their own behaviour in school. We ask that parents sign the **home-school agreement** to indicate that they will respect and support the school's behaviour policy and the authority of the school staff. Building school life into a natural routine – ensuring that your child is at school on time, appropriately dressed, rested, and equipped – will encourage your child to adhere to school rules and procedures.

We ask parents to work with the school in support of their child's learning, which includes informing the school of any special education needs or personal factors that may result in their child displaying unexpected behaviour. We ask that parents be prepared to attend meetings at the school with staff or the headteacher to discuss their child's behaviour and to adhere to any parenting contracts put in place.

In the case of exclusions, we ask that parents provide appropriate supervision for their child during the time that they are excluded from school and, if invited, to attend a reintegration interview at the school with their child.

3. School rules that apply at all times to all members of the school community

- Always be on time.
- Keep your appearance smart and tidy, and wear regulatory school uniform at all times to and from school.
- Rude, derogatory, racist, misogynistic or defamatory language will not be tolerated.
- Be considerate of your peers and the extended community. Do not run through hallways and corridors, do not shout out during lessons, or shout to one another in hallways, or when in public places.
- Be polite and respectful at all times. This applies to staff, other pupils, any visitors to the school, and to members of the general public.
- Take care of your environment, both on the school site and outside, and keep it tidy. Do not litter and do not vandalise property in any way.
- Unauthorised absence from school will not be tolerated.
- Health and safety equipment is only for use in emergency situations and should not be tampered with under any circumstances.
- Disobeying staff is not tolerated.
- The following items are not allowed in school under any circumstances:
 - Alcohol and drugs
 - Cigarettes, matches, and lighters
 - Chewing gum
 - Weapons of any kind
 - Material that is inappropriate or illegal for children to have; such as racist or pornographic material
- Gambling is not allowed on school property.
- Mobile phones should be handed in to the school office and collected at the end of the day.

3.1 Drugs

The school will not tolerate drug use of any sort on school property or during off-site school activities. The school takes its anti-drugs policy very seriously and will discipline any person found to be in possession of drugs. This includes solvents and any other substance that can be misused or harmful. Students may be permanently excluded if they are found to be involved in drug-related incidents. This includes supplying, possessing, or taking drugs.

Prescription drugs

Carrying, supplying or taking prescription drugs illegitimately could result in a permanent exclusion.

Non-prescription drugs

Some over-the-counter drugs can be harmful if misused. We advise that students should not carry these in school. If they need medication please discuss this with the school office.

Medication

We are aware that it may be necessary for some students to take medication during the school day. Parents should make the school aware of this in writing as soon as their child starts taking the medication.

3.2 Alcohol

Consuming, carrying or supplying alcohol is strictly prohibited. Any student involved in any alcohol-related activity may be permanently excluded.

All of these rules also apply when travelling to and from school.

4. Bullying

Ladysmith Schools want to make sure that all students feel safe at school, and accepted into our school community. Our ethos is one of inclusion and equality; bullying of any kind is regarded as a serious breach of our behaviour policy and will not be tolerated, whether it is a one-off incident or an ongoing campaign.

Bullying can be verbal or physical, and can be directed at both staff and students. The school practices a preventative strategy to reduce the chances of bullying, and our anti-bullying policy is instilled in our curriculum and everything we do at the school. It is made very clear to pupils what is expected of them in terms of respecting their peers, members of the public, and staff, and any intentional breach of this will result in disciplinary action.

If an allegation of bullying does come up, the school will:

- take it seriously
- act as quickly as possible to establish the facts
- record and report the incident; depending on how serious the case is, it may be reported to the headteacher
- provide support and reassurance to the victim
- make it clear to the 'bully' that this behaviour will not be tolerated. If there is a group of people involved, they will be spoken to individually and as a whole group. It is important that children who have harmed another, either physically or emotionally, redress their actions, and the school will make sure that they understand what they have done and the impact of their actions
- ensure that if a sanction is used, it will correlate to the seriousness of the incident and the 'bully' will be told why it is being used
- consider a fixed term exclusion in cases of repeated bullying.

5. Disciplinary sanctions

Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a statutory power for teachers and certain other staff to discipline students. Ladysmith School operates using the following disciplinary measures:

- Warning from member of staff
- Time out in class to think about behaviour
- Missing some play / lunchtime to talk to teacher about behaviour
- Time out in another class
- Meeting / contact with parents as appropriate - CPOMs updated
- Senior member of staff involved
- Parents informed and CPOMS updated
- Alternative In-School Provision
- Fixed term exclusion – **See exclusions policy**
- Permanent exclusion - **See exclusions policy**

Sanctions are adapted relating to the seriousness and frequency of the behaviour.

5.1 Alternative behaviour management strategies

Alternative In-School Provision

If a pupil needs to be removed from a lesson that is in progress, or a social situation, for disruptive behaviour or to calm down, it may be necessary to place that pupil elsewhere in the school. This may occur over break times and will be used in circumstances where it is not necessary to remove the pupil from the school site, but separation is needed. They will be placed in another class or somewhere where appropriate support and supervision can be provided.

Mediation

If there is a conflict between two or more pupils, a member of staff will sit down with those involved and attempt to mediate the situation through discussion. This strategy may also be used if there is a conflict between a teacher and a pupil.

Restorative justice

This strategy is dependent on the cooperation of all parties involved in an incident or situation, and will usually be used where one person has done something to upset or harm another. It can be helpful for the offender to redress the harm that they have done and hopefully learn from their mistakes. It can also provide closure for those who have been harmed.

5.2 Searching and confiscation

Following guidance set out by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, our members of staff are authorised to use confiscation as a disciplinary sanction if it is lawful. This means that staff may confiscate or seize items in the possession of students that are illegal, or banned by the school. It is our first priority to ensure that students are in a safe and secure environment when they are in our care, and any items that may jeopardise the safety of other students or themselves will be taken off students without notice.

A teacher or someone who has lawful control of the child can search a pupil **with their permission** to look for any item that the school's rules say must not be brought into school. Headteachers and other members of staff authorised by them have the power to search a pupil **without the pupil's consent** if they suspect they are in possession of 'prohibited items'. Where possible there will be two members of staff present for a search and it will be conducted in a suitable private room. Parents will be informed if a search is conducted. Prohibited items that can be searched for without consent include:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm.

The Education Act 2011 allows for staff seizing an electronic device to examine any data or files on the device if they think there is good reason to do so. These data or files may be erased before returning the item if they believe there is good reason to do this.

Any cigarettes confiscated in school will be destroyed.

5.3 Use of force

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- committing any offence (or, for a student under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older student);
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any student (including him or herself); or
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any students receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Ladysmith Schools do not encourage the use of force and it will be used very rarely in special circumstances. There is no definition of when it is reasonable to use force, and every situation will have to be judged by the person in charge at that time. The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

All staff at the school have the authority to use force when reasonable, and this extends to any other person whom the head has given the responsibility to be in charge or in control of the students. Staff can also use this power when they are lawfully in charge of students but off the school premises – i.e., on a school trip.

Following serious incidents involving the use of force, the school will speak to the parents concerned. It is up to schools to decide whether it is an appropriate occasion to report the use of force to parents.

Such serious incidents involving the use of force will also be recorded by the school.

• Attendance

Regular attendance at school is required by law, and Ladysmith Schools take attendance very seriously. There is a register taken daily, and parents will be contacted if there is repeated absence or lateness. Parents or carers will be contacted to discuss possible reasons and school support systems that could help. More information can be found in the school's **attendance policy**.

• Uniform and appearance

Effective teaching and learning needs proper organisation, and this starts with a smart and tidy appearance which helps to instil discipline and pride in appearance in students, and reduces the risk of distraction in lessons.

We encourage all children to be part of the Ladysmith Federation community and wear their school uniform. The uniform can be bought at Thomas Moore in Exeter.

Nursery: No set uniform

Whole School:

Grey/black trousers

Grey/black shorts

Grey/black pinafore dress, grey/black pleated skirt

Blue and white checked or striped dress

Burgundy or Grey tights

White/ burgundy polo shirt or open neck shirt

Burgundy sweatshirt or fleece

P.E. Kit

(required in the Summer Term only for Infant and Nursery)

Navy shorts, Ladysmith burgundy polo shirt or White T-shirt, Trainers

In the junior school, football boots are needed for girls and boys for activities on the field

No jewellery should be worn other than one pair of stud earrings for children with pierced ears. No make-up is to be worn and pupils should not come to school with hair dye in.

• Regulating student's offsite conduct

Students who are caught or known to have been misbehaving on the way to or from school, or near the school premises, will be disciplined by the school. This also applies to students who break school conduct during work experience, school trips, or extended school activities such as sports events, or any event where poor behaviour might jeopardise the chances of future students participating.

• Rewards policy

Ladysmith schools believe that it is important to encourage good conduct throughout the school by celebrating and rewarding good behaviour.

This will be done through a range of approaches, including, but not exclusive to:

- Positive feedback linked to choices that the child makes
- Sticker rewards
- Sharing success with others – in class, Headteacher, parents or chosen adult
- Ambition, Adventure, Achievement book – praised in celebration assembly

- **Complaints**

The school has a standard complaints procedure. We encourage parents to take any complaints or concerns to a staff member or the headteacher, and the school will do everything in its power to help resolve conflict or complaints swiftly and effectively. For details of the full complaints procedure see our **school complaints policy**. For information on complaints relating to exclusions, see the **school exclusions policy**.

Signed by

.....	Chair of governors	Date:
.....	Headteacher	Date:
.....	Headteacher	Date:

This policy will be reviewed annually.