

Scapegoat Hill J&I School



School Road, Scapegoat Hill, Huddersfield HD7 4NU
Telephone: 01484 647008, Email: office@scapegoathill.co.uk
Website: www.scapegoat-hill.kirklees.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss Natalie Shackleton

Behaviour Policy

Approved by: School Governors

Date: 16th October 2025

Last Reviewed on: September 2025

Date of next review: September 2026

Children's rights to education. (UNICEF)

We believe all children have the right to high quality content and provision of education that is child centred and empowering. Education is a key social and cultural right and plays an important role in reducing poverty and child labour. Furthermore, education promotes democracy, peace, tolerance, development and economic growth.

The education of children shall be directed to:

- The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.
- The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
- The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate and for civilisations different from his or her own.
- The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin.
- The development of respect for the natural environment.

Education should consist of essential learning tools such as literacy, numeracy and problem solving combined with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required by human beings to survive, develop potential, to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decisions and to continue learning.

General Comment on the aims of education (UNICEF)

In 2001, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child**, the body of experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention, published a paper (called a General Comment) that explained and elaborated on the right to education.

The General Comment on the aims of education provides a very clear overview of what the right to education means in practice. It said that:

- Education must be child-centred and empowering. This applies to the curriculum as well as the educational processes, the pedagogical methods and the environment where education takes place.
- Education must be provided in a way that respects the inherent dignity of the child and enables the child to express his or her views in accordance with article 12 (1) and to participate in school life.
- Education must respect the strict limits on discipline reflected in article 28 and promote non-violence in school.
- Education must include not only literacy and numeracy but also life skills such as the ability to make well-balanced decisions; to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner; and to develop a healthy lifestyle, good social relationships and responsibility, critical thinking, creative talents, and other abilities which give children the tools needed to pursue their options in life.

In addition, this policy is based on:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which outlines a school duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of its pupils
- Sections 88 to 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which requires school to regulate pupils' behaviour and publish a behaviour policy and written statement of behaviour principles, and gives school the authority to confiscate pupils' property
- DfE guidance explaining that maintained school must publish their behaviour policy online

Scapegoat Hill Junior and Infant School Behaviour Policy

What are the aims of our behaviour policy?

This policy aims:

- To highlight the importance of recognition of good behaviour and praise
- To share the children's voice with regards to behaviour and rewards
- To outline our system of rewards and consequences.
- To guide the School community in creating a positive, safe and happy environment in which all learners thrive.
- To define what we consider to be acceptable/unacceptable behaviour, including bullying.
- To summarise the roles and responsibilities of different people in the School community with regards to behaviour management.
- To ensure ALL pupils, staff and visitors are free from any form of discrimination.

Why a 'bespoke' behaviour policy?

Learning how to be well-behaved and understanding codes of conduct for a range of social situations is all part of growing up. Making and keeping friends, knowing and using good manners, being polite, respectful and tolerant all enhance children's personal development and opportunities in life. All children are different and come into school at different points on this journey. Therefore, it is appropriate to have a bespoke set of opportunities to offer children, opportunities which allows them to gain experience and understanding at their own pace and from their own starting point. Our end goal is for children to leave our settings confident their own behaviour is excellent and with high self-esteem. They should have the skills to evaluate their own behaviour and the strategies to improve or make changes if circumstances dictate. It is our job to help children to help themselves now and in the future.

Research shows that visual rewards, i.e. merits, stickers, certificates, given regularly can quickly become devalued and demotivating for some children. As an inclusive school, we strive to ensure all our children feel valued in what they think, say and do.

With this in mind our policy values:

- consulting with children on aspects of school life through the school councils, assemblies, discussions and debates in class, RHSE and PHSE activities, extracurricular clubs, group work and one to one chats with adults.
- the use of positive feedback in the form of praise, positive reinforcement, displaying and sharing of work and achievements, role models and champions and written comments on work.
- encouraging sharing, negotiating and turn taking through collaborative and cooperative work and activities.

- adults – practitioners, students, volunteers, being good role models, setting good examples, in either setting and out of school.
- working with children to help them understand the impact and consequences of their actions –
- supporting children of all ages to develop an understand of appropriate behaviour through the continuous provision, child initiated and independent learning.
- Ensuring all children know they are valued as individuals - avoiding stereotypes, judgements or assumptions of individuals even if their behaviour is sometime unacceptable.

Why involve children?

Consultation with children in managing behaviour is essential. This empowers children to also challenge unreasonable or poor behaviour that they either witness or experience.

School agreed rewards

What rewards do we use?

Our Rewards are based on praise for effort and achievement at all levels, unique to the child. Our children have flourished on positive praise and reinforcement.

Our rewards include

- Sharing work and achievements with peers, staff and parents/carers
- Positive feedback either verbal or written
- Taking work to Senior members of staff, including the Headteacher
- Valuing work through the creation of classroom and whole school displays of work
- The child's name is written in the 'recognition board'
- Recognition in our weekly achievement assembly to which parents are invited.
- Giving roles and responsibilities to those who have improved – relative to each unique child
- Children designing, creating and leading activities
- Membership of school council
- Child's Voice

What is considered to be acceptable behaviour?

School rules

Lessons, early morning work, circle times, PHSE, assemblies, discussions in class and role modelling are all opportunities we take to develop knowledge, understanding skills and strategies that exemplify acceptable behaviour in and out of school.

Children are expected to:

- Be honest at all times – understanding that building a trust is the basis for excellent relationships with peers and adults alike
- Behave in an orderly and self-controlled way
- Move calmly and quietly around school.
- Take an active role in opportunities that develop good personal, social and learning behaviours
- Show respect to members of staff and each other
- Ensure all children have the opportunity to learn
- Treat the school buildings and school property with respect
- Wear appropriate clothing at all times

- Accept consequences when given
- Be inclusive – consider the feelings of others
- Refrain from behaving in a way that brings the school into disrepute, including when outside school
- Ensure all learners – children and adults – are safe in school

We have simplified our school rules into the following 5 statements:

Tell the truth

First time for everything

Take turns to speak

Look after everyone and everything

Use manners

We believe expectations are a two-way, active process. Therefore, children should expect to:

- Be listened to; BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN
- Be respected
- Be cared for
- Be disciplined appropriately
- Not be judged or made assumption of
- Be forgiven
- Have the impact of their behaviour explained
- Have their parents / carers notified of their behaviour – particularly when it has been identified as setting a great example!

What is consider to be unacceptable behaviour?

Below, we outline a range of behaviours we believe are detrimental to the ability of children to learn, respect themselves and others, develop confidence or thrive. These behaviours can reduce inclusion and lower self-esteem. These lists are not exhaustive but give a good idea of what is not acceptable in our school.

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes
- Deliberate attempt to stopping others from learning
- Being disrespectful, unkind or rude to others
- Defiance against reasonable instructions from any member of staff

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of the school rules
- Any form of bullying
- Child on Child abuse – please see separate Child on Child Abuse Policy in the Policies section of the school's website.
- Inappropriate assault, which is any unwanted aggressive or sexual behaviour that causes humiliation, pain, fear or intimidation
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting

- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- **Any behaviour a staff member reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, cause an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the children)**

How do we define bullying and what do we do about it?

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one 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
Child on Child abuse	Any behaviour toward a peer that is deemed abusive either mentally, sexually or physically
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Racial	Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, 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 or gaming sites

NB: Please see our anti-bullying policy for more details on how to avoid, report or deal with suspected incidents of bullying.

Exclusions

The Headteacher is the only person in school who has the right to exclude a child. Guidance from the local authority will be followed in all instances where either a fixed term or permanent exclusion has become the only option.

An exclusion of any child will only take place if:

- all other options for managing unacceptable behaviour have been explored and found to be unsupportive.
- the rules laid out in the behaviour policy have persistently broken.
- there is perceived or real danger to the safety of themselves, other children or adults in or out of school.

Parents will be included in all discussions and notified as soon as possible should an exclusion be recommended. Children will be provided with resources to continue their learning in the first 5 days of their exclusion. Children who are excluded from school should not be out of the home during school hours.

What consequences do we use?

Appropriate consequences based on the individual, the circumstances and background knowledge, are absolutely key to the success of our behaviour policy and principle. It is made very clear that it is the poor behaviour that we are not happy with and not the child themselves. This reflects our belief in the importance of maintaining high self-esteem and good relationships. Our consequences also reflect the level of seriousness of any incident that has taken place.

Having listened actively to children involved in incidents, to gain their perspective and that of any other children involved, a decision will be made with regard to the choice of sanction and further action; the level of sanction required – missing break/lunchtime, no football at break time etc. completing work during break or lunchtime, will reflect individual child and circumstances in which the incident occurred.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- removing the child/children from a situation
- removing other children/classes from a situation
- involving senior leaders or the head teacher
- speaking to parents/carers

What strategies do we use to manage behaviour?

Through Classroom management

Teachers, support staff, student teachers and volunteers are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the classroom/ all areas of school. We actively look for opportunities to praise good choices.

Adults are expected to greet all children in the morning, or at the start of lessons if they change rooms, and to establishing clear routines quickly at the beginning of the year; regular reviews of school and routines ensure children understand what 'good' looks like. The following list of expectations will also support behaviour management:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages children to be engaged and motivate
- Display the school rules
- Re-enforce the school rules as the first step to consequences
- Share rules with other members of staff working in the classroom – especially PPA cover and supply teachers

Develop a positive relationship with children, will also include: •

Praising at every opportunity, for effort and achievement

- Communicating expectations of behaviour through modelling and positive praise
- Highlighting, promoting and praising good behaviour
- Concluding the day positively and starting the next day afresh
- Using positive reinforcement

A consistent whole school management

We are continually developing and supporting positive behaviour management strategies and techniques. We treat children as individuals by using one or more of the strategies listed below to tailor a positive method for dealing with different incidents and different children.

Emotion Coaching

De-escalation

Risk assessment

Behaviour target forms

Monitoring of behaviour and children's well-being

De-escalation

Positive behaviour management strategies promote an emphasis of relationship building, personal safety, communication, and verbal and non-verbal de-escalation techniques for dealing with challenging behaviour which reduce the need for physical intervention. De-escalation ensures our responses to disruptive, disturbing, angry and aggressive behaviours maintains positive relationships and provides safety for all.

How do we make our policy completely inclusive?

Child Centred support

The school recognises its legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to prevent pupils with a protected characteristic from being at a disadvantage. Consequently, our approach to challenging behaviour is differentiated to cater to the needs of the unique child. The school's Inclusion Manager will 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 to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

Off-site behaviour

Our expectations of children's behaviour off site is just as high as it is in school. Children are taught to understand that they represent their respective school and the School. Poor behaviour lets themselves and others down. Poor behaviour off site will result in consequences on returning to school. For example, poor behaviour during a swimming lesson may result in the child not taking part in lunchtime activities. Parents and carers will be informed of any poor and unacceptable behaviour that takes place on educational visits and visits to the local high school.

What are the roles and responsibilities of staff, parents and children?

The Governors

The Governing Body is responsible for reviewing and approving the written statement of behaviour policy at 2 yearly intervals. The Governing Body will review this behaviour policy in conjunction with the head teacher and monitor the policy's effectiveness, holding the head teacher to account for its implementation.

The School Head and Senior Leaders

The head is responsible for reviewing this behaviour policy in conjunction with the Governing Body, giving due consideration to the views of staff and children. The head will also approve this policy following consultation with teachers. The head will ensure that the school environment encourages positive behaviour and that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour, and will monitor how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and consequences are applied consistently.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Respecting the rights of children to feel safe and learn in school
- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Modelling positive behaviour
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular pupils
- Recording behaviour incidents (See Below)
- Challenging the contents of implementation where it is deemed unsupportive to children

The Senior Leadership and Wider Leadership Team will support staff in responding to behaviour incidents.

Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Support their child in adhering to the behaviour policy and the school rules.
- Inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly
- Support school in helping their child to raise their self-esteem and improve standards of behaviour in and out of school

Children – See Page 4 – What children should expect.

The behaviour of our children in school is the responsibility of the whole school community – primarily parents, staff and the children themselves.

Keeping children at the heart of what we do, their learning is made relevant to them following our intent, vision and values. **We believe behaviour is a form of communication, therefore poor behaviour is a way to communicate a need not being met.** We work hard to build caring and respectful relationships with children, empowering them to seek out an appropriate adult that they can talk to at any time. We remain vigilant at all time to changes in behaviour that may indicate a change in mood, circumstances or child's life that may need investigating; if we identify a child whose behaviour has changed or we have been notified by a family member /carer of a concern for a child's wellbeing, **all** our members of staff are on hand for support and notified as soon as possible. All staff are expected to be available to support all children as it will be the child's choice who they decide to open up to and trust enough to confide in.

Policy Implemented	September 2024	Headteacher/Governors
Policy Reviewed	September 2025	Headteacher/Governors