



LEICESTER

THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS THROUGH NURTURE AND MINDSET

Working positively with pupils Policy (often referred to as behaviour policy)

Policy Owner	Leicester Therapeutic School
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Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) at Leicester Therapeutic School

At Leicester Therapeutic School, we are passionate about providing an inclusive education to children with special educational needs. We recognise and celebrate the individuality of our pupils and use personalised approaches, allowing pupils with SEND to feel supported during the school day. We strive to provide pupils with the same opportunities and experiences that pupils would have received at a mainstream school, believing passionately that in the right environment, with the right support, pupils will flourish in education. We do this by focusing on providing a SEND friendly environment, an adapted curriculum, and a strong focus on developing pupils' personal, social, and emotional development. The special educational needs and disabilities of all pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School is carefully considered and a central theme in through all school policies. For more information, please read the school's SEND Information

Safeguarding at Leicester Therapeutic School

At Leicester Therapeutic School, we are committed to providing an environment in which students feel safe and secure to access their education. All stakeholders are responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all staff are encouraged to maintain an "it could happen here" attitude. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, and bullying. Leicester Therapeutic School are dedicated to creating a strong safeguarding culture, and that the safety and well-being of children is the central thread that embeds itself through all aspects of the school. If a person is concerned about anything they read, witness, or hear with regards to the school, they should contact the school's designated safeguarding lead immediately or Headteacher. Safeguarding, and the safety and well-being of all pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School is carefully considered and a central theme through all school policies.

Legislation and statutory requirements

Legislation and statutory requirements Leicester Therapeutic School acknowledges its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, and in terms of safeguarding and supporting students with special educational needs. This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- [Behaviour in schools: advice for Headteachers and school staff 2022](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England 2017](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)
- [Supporting students with medical conditions at school](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice.](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#)

In addition, this policy is based on:

- Section 175 of the [Education Act 2002](#), which outlines a school's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of its young people
- Sections 88-94 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), which require schools to regulate young people's behaviour and publish a behaviour policy and written statement of behaviour principles, and give schools the authority to confiscate young people's property.

The [Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#); paragraph 7 outlines a school's duty to safeguard and promote the

Aim

This policy seeks to outline the importance of positive working relationships, and how they are vital in supporting the young people of Leicester Therapeutic School.

- **Building Connection:** Connecting with a young person helps to form strong, lasting working relationships that allow them to thrive.
- **Respectful Interactions:** Promoting respectful interactions based on empathy and understanding. Including using some of the strategies highlighted in this document.
- **Confident Communication:** Strategies for confident communication, balancing the needs of the individual with the needs of the organisation. Clear, confident communication that is consistent will support young people to make active positive choices.
- **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** Collaborative approaches to problem-solving, involving young people in decision-making processes. This could include finding resolutions to classroom issues, or even looking at ways to improve the schools. Focus should be to develop pupils co-regulation skills, moving towards self regulation to promote learning.

Positive working relationships are about supporting pupils to know their place in the world, understanding the expectations of others and being provided with the tools to meet these. All pupils are taught about respect, equity & equality and the importance of tolerance. Enabling them to be active citizens within their

communities and wider world is a crucial part of the work of our schools. We will not tolerate bullying (including cyber bullying) and any pupil involved in bullying or child on child abuse will have intervention tailored and targeted in line with their age and stage of social understanding.

By using positive working relationships with our pupils, we will support, encourage and model respectful treatment of others, care for the environment and develop pupils' skills to work towards independently regulating their emotional responses effectively.

Mobile phones are not accessed by pupils during the school day. Some pupils may have a mobile phone linked to their medical needs and the use of this will be outlined within personalised plans. The schools Child Protection Policy and training throughout the year linked to this clearly cover the use of technology and how adults should work to safeguard children and young people.

Communication without demand (Expectation of adults)

Communication without demand helps to set the foundation for positive working relationships with young people. To do this, we must use appropriate communication strategies that allow pupils to feel valued, heard, and important to you. By doing this, when pupils truly need us, or when we do need to place demand on them, the relationship is already there.

- **Clear and Effective Communication:** Strategies for clear and concise communication, avoiding demands and using positive total communication strategies .
- This can just look like a 'good morning' when the children arrive at school, or even knowing what the children have for lunch
- **Active Listening:** Techniques for active listening, including empathy, validation, and non-verbal cues. By doing this, you will be showing the young people that they are important to you. Active listening means giving your full attention (devices away), maintaining eye contact (at their level, if appropriate), nodding or responding appropriately to what they are saying, reflecting their words, and validating their feelings to show you understand and care.
- **Positive informed Responses:** Interactions that build on the connections that have been made with the young person. Our positive informed responses reinforce that we care, value, and are interested in the young people in our schools that are based on knowledge of child and known triggers.
- **Processing and Response Time:** Pupils often require additional processing and response time to fully understand and respond to information. It is crucial that all staff supporting a young person remain patient and understanding, allowing them the time they need to fully engage or respond to discussion or demands. It is suggested that we allow 10 seconds of processing time before repeating, rephrasing or amending what was said.

Debriefs (Range of models and strategies)

Debrief is crucial to maintaining positive working relationships with the young people across our schools. It is used as a tool to support pupils to understand how behaviours that they have demonstrated may be seen by others. This makes sure that pupils understand when the relationships that they are creating with others may include bullying behaviours or demonstrate a lack of tolerance. Whilst these behaviours are often linked to pupils' needs, debriefs help them to understand their role working positively with supporting adults to make changes to their actions.

Debrief should occur as soon as possible after any challenging interactions (including bullying) with young people. It is an important opportunity to understand the reasoning behind a young person's decision making, but also for them to understand your decision-making during times of crisis. Where possible, debriefs should also occur for the other pupils who may have witnessed times of crisis amongst their peers.

Debrief needs to be supported by trusted adults with strong connections who can then have challenging communication. We should use a range of strategies and models to debrief. Including, but not limited to:

- Visuals
- Choice boards
- Helping a child communicate how they are feeling
- Supporting social communication e.g. pre-prepared scripts
- Offering a range of coping strategies.
- Zones of Regulation
- Through one-to-one play
- Using Talking Mats
- Role play
- Quiet space discussion (debrief models)
- Draw Talk
- Being present in a quiet space
- Comic Strip Conversations
- Going for a "walk and talk"
- Using sensory strategies to distract or comfort pupils
- Problem Solving Frames or Social Behaviour Maps

Rebuilds and restorative practise

Rebuilds allow for pupils to feel a sense of positive reconnection when they may have done something they may regret or feel negatively about. This may be, after a moment of dysregulation or negative interactions with peers (such as bullying), children will feel a level of shame and it is not for us to exacerbate this but to support them to rebuild and restore with their peers, the staff, and themselves. As a result of this we reestablish communication, rebuild the relationship and repair

Restorative Justice Principles

- **Recognising the Impact:** Acknowledging the harm caused by the incident, to all involved. This could be just between two pupils, or it could be the wider school community.
- **Understanding the Consequences:** Exploring the short-term and long-term consequences of the behaviour that came with the dysregulation.

Repairing Relationships

Strategies for repairing damaged relationships and restoring trust. This will be directed by the trusted adult based on the individual needs of the pupil.

- Restorative Dialogue: Facilitating dialogue between those involved to promote a shared understanding and empathy.
- Restitution and Reparation: Developing to make amends for any harm caused, such as restitution, repairing what might be broken (where possible), or apologies.
- Reconciliation: Working towards reconciliation and rebuilding relationships.

Positive Culture

Our school is a community, so bullying (in any form) and child on child abuse are not tolerated. Staff respond swiftly to concerns raised, reporting them using the online systems and work with pupils to address the concerns. This builds on our culture of restorative practice, where mistakes are seen as opportunities for learning and growth. Based on the needs of the pupils the work undertaken is long term and revisited through the PSHE and RSHE curriculum regularly.

Sanctions

Sanctions are applied on an individual basis and are dependent on each pupil's specific needs, understanding, and circumstances. The purpose of any sanction is to support personal development, promote self-regulation, and encourage positive behaviour, rather than to punish.

When considering a sanction, staff will consider a pupil's age, level of understanding, special educational needs or disabilities, and any relevant emotional or environmental factors. Reasonable adjustments will always be made in line with the **Equality Act 2010** to ensure that sanctions are fair, proportionate, and supportive of each pupil's wellbeing.

Possible sanctions may include;

- Child tidying classroom after throwing items on the floor
- Apology letters for being unkind
- Loss of choosing time to complete unfinished work (never break or lunchtime play)
- Natural consequences linked to behaviour to be decided by staff member

The school follows a **engage disengage, re-engage** approach, focusing on understanding the reasons behind behaviour and teaching appropriate alternative strategies. Sanctions are used only when necessary and are designed to help pupils reflect on their actions and make positive choices in the future.

Our response to negative behaviour may depend on the pupil's individual needs. Therefore, we should always take a personalised approach, following the pupils PBP and school ethos for behaviour.

Negative behaviour may include, but is not restricted to:

- Not taking part in a planned activity;
- Knowingly distracting others;

- Talking over the top of the teacher or designated speaker;
- Damaging property;
- Swearing;
- Defacing or destroying work;
- leaving lessons early;
- Ignoring or excluding others;
- Insulting or bullying behaviour;
- Discriminatory behaviour;
- Sexualized behaviour;
- Acting aggressively towards people;
- Absconding; and
- Acting in an unsafe manner.

The behaviour of children and young people in any lesson is the responsibility of the timetabled teacher/member of staff, or in their absence, the designated cover teacher. Children and young people across the school will be encouraged to recognise that inappropriate, disruptive and dangerous behaviour is not acceptable and that staff will consistently reinforce this message by addressing such behaviours during lessons and at social times. Equally staff should give minimal feedback for low level undesirable behaviours.

Whilst there must be consistency in terms of all teachers challenging concerning behaviour, the methods that teachers employ will be suitably differentiated to take account of the level of risk, the pupil's individual needs and abilities, and the context within which the behaviour is taking place. Where pupils have Behaviour Plans (PBP) or Risk Assessments (RAs) in place, the timetabled teacher must ensure that they are familiar with the details of such documents, follow the strategies they outline, and regularly contribute new information to them through the pupil's class teacher and support staff.

Communicating Expectations and Choices If pupils begin to display inappropriate/challenging behaviour in a lesson, the teacher's first communication with the pupil will go a long way to determining how the behaviour will evolve. For many pupils, well judged, timed and delivered verbal communication of expectations and choices vastly improves the chances of the pupil choosing to adopt positive behaviour for learning.

Below is a suggested list of communication strategies for pupils which can support Positive Behaviour for Learning. These strategies are part of the EDR approach:

- Ask if they are OK - Sometimes we don't need to challenge the behaviour at all. Simply acknowledging that teachers have spotted the pupil is off-task is enough to get them back on track. Asking if they are OK implies that the inappropriate behaviour is not the pupil's fault and is instead down to any number of environmental factors: They are hot, tired, don't have a pen, can't see the board etc. Pupils know they've been noticed, and teachers know they know. Clarify that they understand what they should be doing, resolve any environmental problems and walk away. Sometimes teachers can achieve the same effect with eye contact and a thumbs up;
- Smile - When attempting to support pupils' Positive Behaviour for Learning, the outcome of any dialogue can be influenced by our body language. Rush in with a raised voice, a frown, or a pointing finger and pupils' fight or flight responses may be triggered. Wearing a smile conveys the impression that there is no conflict and it keeps open the possibility of recovery and repair;
- Blame yourself - It's very easy to blame pupils for their behaviour but it can be very disarming if teachers take that blame on themselves: "I'm sorry, I haven't explained myself properly. Let me try again." It's hard for pupils to be confrontational with you when you are taking the blame for their difficulties;

- **Take-Up Time** - Our pupils take longer to process language. This is a consequence of their general or specific learning difficulties. After giving an instruction or making a request, allow plenty of time for pupils to process your words. Tell them they have time to think. Come back when the allotted time is up and re-check. If they still haven't got it, repeat, rather than rephrase the message – otherwise, they may well have to begin the whole process again;
- **Assume Compliance** - Standing over someone and watching that they carry out your instructions is confrontational and shows that you don't trust the pupil to make the right choice. To save face in front of peers, pupils may feel obliged to hold out against teachers and refuse. Instead, deliver the message and walk away: Show them you trust them. You can always come back to check later;
- **Thank You** - If you say 'please' after a request, the implication is that the pupils have some kind of choice – they can agree to follow the request or refuse, potentially paving the way to a confrontation. Instead, deliver the message and end with Thank You. Subliminally, teachers are showing that they expect the pupil to comply; another sign that they trust them;
- **Keep It Short and Simple** - Our pupils have a wide range of general and specific learning difficulties that compromise their ability to process language. This is further impaired when they are under stress as the language processing part of a human brain is adversely affected when in flight or fight mode;
- **Say Their Name** - It's polite but it also makes it crystal clear who teachers are talking to, ruling out any opportunities for pupils to duck out of things by saying, "I didn't know you meant me." It's also really helpful to our ASD pupils, who may find the non-verbal cues too difficult to pick up on and genuinely aren't aware when you are talking to them;
- **Parallel Praise** - Jumping on inappropriate behaviour is draining for everyone. Teachers quickly get worn down by it: So do pupils. Use Parallel Praise to redress the balance a bit. Instead of telling a pupil what they are doing wrong, pick on a pupil who is doing it right, and tell them;
- **Descriptive Praise** supports behaviour for learning. If we tell people what it is exactly that we like about what they are doing, we are reinforcing the behaviours we want to promote, eg 'I liked the way you came the first time I asked.' 'I noticed how kindly you supported _S_. Thank you.' 'Thank you for returning to the activity so promptly.' We are also giving them positive feedback and personal recognition. This raises their self-esteem and leads to improved behaviour. The use of descriptive praise is a feature of the school's language and part of our growth mind-set ethos.
- **Offer Choices** - It's important that pupils have clear choices. This might be a choice between taking part and having a consequence. The choice needs to be delivered simply and factually. Allowing pupils to come to their own decisions helps develop an important skill and lets them take some responsibility for their behaviour. Instead of becoming confrontational in response to teachers' threats, many pupils will simply make the right choice if it is presented to them clearly;
- **Acknowledge the Excuses** - When teachers challenge an inappropriate behaviour, pupils' will often reply with an excuse; "I was only..." This is a secondary behaviour and is an important method a pupil will use to save face. We don't need to respond to it as this will almost inevitably lead to conflict. Instead teachers should build their responses around "Yes...and." The "Yes" acknowledges their excuse; the "And" introduces the teachers' requirements. "Yes, you were just putting that in the bin, and I need you to be sat at your desk."
- **Reflection Time** - If pupils have become distressed and said some wildly offensive things, is it reasonable that they apologise there and then? And if they do, how meaningful is that apology? Allowing them time to reflect will make any restorative work more meaningful and avoid the conflict;
- **Stay Calm** - Pupils will sometimes respond to teacher's directions with the, "You can't make me" response. Again, it is an example of a secondary behaviour and is likely to lead to an escalation in the situation if teachers try to prove them wrong with ever increasing threats of consequences. The truth is teachers can't physically make them do anything: Society works on the principal that most people will make the right

choices, especially if they are positively incentivised. Teachers should acknowledge that they are right to say they can't be made to do something, clarify what you expect them to do anyway, and walk away;

- **Clock Watch** – If you have gone through the full range of strategies and you are sure the pupil knows what the expectations and choices are, sometimes the most appropriate strategy is then to acknowledge the time, give pupils a short timescale to get back on track and explain that missed time will be made up. Made up time can be at break or lunch time, but teachers should talk about it as a consequence of their choices rather than as a threat.

All serious incidents and sanctions are **recorded and monitored** by senior staff to ensure consistency and fairness. Pupils (where appropriate) and parents are involved in discussions regarding any significant sanctions, to promote shared understanding and effective support.

Corporal punishment is **strictly prohibited** in all circumstances. Sanctions will never compromise a pupil's dignity, safety, or welfare, and will always be applied in line with the school's **Safeguarding Policy** and the principles of care, respect, and restorative practice.

All staff receive **regular training** in positive behaviour management, de-escalation, and safe practice to ensure a consistent, supportive, and needs-led approach across the school.

Caregiver and Parental Engagement & Support

Family engagement and support is vital to ensuring positive relationships with the young people in school. If debriefs cannot happen at school, they may be able to happen at home. The same processes of holding positive engagement and relationships with the young people should apply to parents.

- **Open and Honest Communication:** Maintaining open and honest communication with parents and carers is crucial.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Building collaborative partnerships with parents and carers helps to show young people that the adults working with them are there to support them together. That unity will help pupils to build trust with the staff in school.
- **Effective Communication Strategies:** Using effective communication strategies will help families to engage positively with their children. Staff should recognise and support the communication needs of families in the same way we do with the pupils.

Recording and Reporting

- Every incident involving RPI must be documented in detail via CPOMS and communicated to parents/carers as soon as practical but before the end of the working day.
- Staff involved must complete a CPOMS report and participate in a post-incident debrief to reflect on practices, updating Engagement Support Plans (ESP) and reviewing outcomes.

- Child on Child concerns are reported on the school safeguarding system (CPOMS), designated safeguarding leads assess the situation and guide the work to be completed by perpetrators and victims. This work includes working closely with parents, keeping everyone informed.
- Behaviours identified as bullying are recorded on CPOMS by staff and tracked by leaders. Class teachers work with parents to ensure that they are aware of the situation for all pupils involved and personalised plans are updated.

Challenging Conversations & Tricky Truths

Clarity is important for our children and adults often want to protect children from challenging conversations. This is understandable; however, it avoids opportunities to develop emotional regulation - both co-regulating, and self-regulating. Challenging conversations can help create clarity for both the pupils and the staff working with them. It is important not to avoid or ignore them, but to work directly with the young person to be able to notice, label and respond to the emotion they are feeling.

- **Difficult Conversations (Including Alternative Communication Strategies):** Staff should have different strategies for holding difficult conversations with pupils. These communications can be awkward, challenging, and will sometimes be upsetting for all involved. However, working through these together will strengthen the working relationship.
- **Conflict Resolution:** This is not 'fixing' the problem for the young people but working alongside them to find a resolution to any issues. Sometimes this can just be being present while they argue or fall out. Other times, it may be that the adults need to offer an opportunity for pupils to use their voice. They may need someone to advocate for them or support their self-advocacy skills.
- **Setting Boundaries:** Establishing and maintaining clear, healthy boundaries in relationships helps pupils gain a clear understanding of their role within the school community and within their relationships. It also gives them consistency they can work with. If staff are emotionally dysregulated or unpredictable, pupils may find it difficult to trust them as reliable sources of co-regulation
- **Delivering Developmental Feedback:** Strategies for delivering what could be negative feedback in a constructive and supportive way.
- **Addressing Challenging Behaviour & Managing Difficult Situations:** Staff should address challenging behaviour based on the pupil needs, and what their Engagement Support Plans (ESP) states.

Mirror and Mode

Mirroring and modelling are strategies staff use to show pupils how they want them to be in difficult moments. Using mirroring can help young people feel calm, settled, and willing to try difficult things.

- **The Power of Modelling:** The importance of modelling positive behaviours and attitudes.
- **Mirroring Techniques:** Mirroring is using facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, and deliberate actions to show young people how you are feeling during interactions with them.
- **Supporting and Modelling Social Communication:** Social communication can be nurtured through modelling, practice, and real-life interactions. If a pupil uses language that may not match the context or their intent, we can support them by offering alternative ways to express themselves that align with the situation while respecting their individual communication style.

Environment

How the school looks and feels helps to promote a positive learning environment. It is important that staff have a positive attitude towards their learning spaces. Showing love, care, and pride in our environment will help the pupils understand that we have a positive relationship with our jobs.

- **Creating a Positive Environment:** Utilising physical and social environments that promote positivity and care.
- **Sensory Considerations:** Understanding and addressing individual sensory needs to create a comfortable and supportive environment.
- **Routine and Structure:** The importance of routine and structure cannot be understated. When expectations are clear, children can thrive. Routine and structure can take time to embed but once embedded it should be maintained throughout the school year.
- **Visuals-** Using visuals in each classroom will ensure consistency and embed routines.

Continual professional development

All staff will receive training so that they can implement this policy effectively. This will occur prior to starting their role during induction and will be updated every half term for pupil facing roles and annually for other roles. Any employees who struggle with understanding this policy will be given additional personalised training.

Leadership and Management

Leaders in school are responsible for ensuring that actions taken to deal with situations are reasonable and proportionate, supporting learning to continue and addressing concerns for all pupils involved. Working positively with pupils is focused on understanding their stage of learning and the impact that their needs can have on meeting expectations. The systems in place support leaders to reinforce the principles of restorative justice and the actions that can be taken include:

- Updates to Engagement Support Plans identifying personalised strategies to manage situations for pupils
- Environmental adaptations including changes to locations that pupils can access to ensure that everyone can continue to learn.
- Modifications to curriculum (guided by the needs of the pupil)
- Restorative acts to support pupils to repair with their school communities (on an individual and group level)

There can be times when meeting the complex needs of a pupil is not possible. When this situation arises, Senior Leaders will work in collaboration with the Headteacher to make a decision about suspending a pupil or in the most serious circumstances, permanent exclusion.

Leaders in each school will regularly review the effectiveness of this policy. The headteacher will oversee the monitoring and consistency of implementation. Local Governing bodies will receive regular analysis of data around incidents and responses.

The proprietors will work with the headteacher and other leaders across the schools to evaluate the effectiveness of this policy, having analysed data and consistency of approaches, and report to the Governors.

Engage Disengage Reengage (EDR)

The EDR model is followed at Leicester Therapeutic School. Engage Disengage Reengage is a positive behaviour for learning training model developed within 6 special schools in Leicestershire. It is written to ensure best practice within all facets of school life.

Engage allows staff to engage with behaviour professionally and accurately in order to improve outcomes for pupils.

Disengage focuses on strategies and techniques including the use of reasonable force to help staff and students stop challenging behaviours, this would be using Team teach physical intervention.

Reengage focuses on reflective processes needed to secure and demonstrate the impact of EDR and how accurate reporting and recording systems can generate meaningful data to drive school improvement.

The Engage Disengage Reengage training model ensures that all staff have access to up to date, relevant training, designed specifically for our workplace and the particular needs of our pupils and staff. Members of staff are trained to deliver this model to others and therefore staff have trained people on site in order to support and give advice if and when required.

There are 5 frameworks that EDR is based upon:

1. Behaviour for Learning

Adults can support children and young people by the quality of our relationships with each other and them. These relationships are crucial. Each adult is a significant adult for our children and young people. Supporting Positive Behaviour for Learning is the result of the designated teacher or staff's commitment and dedication to building positive relationships with groups of pupils and with each individual pupil within the group. Pupils are more likely to adopt Positive Behaviour for Learning habits if the teacher/staff is able to demonstrate respect for each pupil and their individual needs and preferences by investing time in building those relationships. Children and young people at Leicester Therapeutic School may find learning difficult; learning new behaviour is a task, just like learning to read or write. As adults, we must consider the learning styles and needs of children and young people; we must also have realistic expectations about the rate of progress a child will make when learning to adapt or develop new behaviours. Most of our children and young people learn in small, incremental steps over a very long period of time.

2. Positive Behaviour Support

How children behave gives us important information about how they are feeling. A Positive Behaviour Policy supporting children to effectively communicate is a very important part of supporting children and young

people to behave appropriately. Children with severe and complex needs will need a personalised approach to behaviour management and consideration must be given to sensory needs, pain thresholds and levels of stimulation and engagement.

3. Restorative Practice

The fundamental premise of restorative practice is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them. Restorative practice includes the use of informal and formal processes that proactively build relationships and a sense of community to promote good behaviour and self-discipline. These processes are most clearly evidenced in an approach to inappropriate behaviour that seeks to acknowledge responsibility for the harm caused, identifies how people are affected, and promotes the repair of relationships. In schools, the use of restorative practices has been shown to reliably reduce inappropriate behaviour, bullying, violence and crime among pupils and improve the overall climate for learning.

4. Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice is a framework for more meaningful pupil engagement in schools. Pupil Voice provides pupils with systems and structures to enable them to contribute to school policy and practice and have a genuine role in designing their learning environment and curriculum on the premise that when pupils are more actively engaged in the system, they are more likely to actively engage with the system.

5. Token Economy

A token economy is the awarding of tangible tokens (dojo points as whole class, stickers) as positive reinforcement to pupils for completing tasks or adopting positive behaviour for learning habits. The basic principle is that a pupil earns a certain number of tokens by engaging in desired behaviours (called “target behaviours”) and can then exchange these tokens – effectively using them as payment, which in turn reinforces positive behaviour.

Embedding EDR across the school

As part of their CPD, all staff will receive a training delivered by Gurjinder Sahota (EDR lead). Teachers can also request training to be delivered for class groups if they wish to discuss individual children or scenarios. The EDR approach is part of the whole school culture and is embedded through the 5 parts of the framework.

New engagement support plans have been introduced to make it more apparent how to support the children. The engagement support plan includes aspects such as triggers and how to support the children. These plans are to be located within the students’ individual files for quick updates or to inform new staff. It is important that these behaviour plans are discussed with parents in order that they fully understand how we support their child. Staff are encouraged to discuss with their teams how best to support the children and if they require any more support via the EDR lead.

Serious Risk

Serious Risk Behaviour is behaviour that presents a risk of physical or emotional harm to pupils or staff, or that risks significant damage to property. If, despite all attempts to divert, distract and de-escalate, behaviour becomes serious, the teacher needs to take charge of the situation calmly and assertively to

manage the risks appropriately. In such situations, the teacher may need to employ some or all of the following strategies:

- Direct the pupil to leave the room and go to a safe place – The safe place/quiet place may be identified on pupil’s planning documents, or it may be an impromptu location. Directing the pupil to a specific location is an important aspect of this strategy as it helps to ensure the teacher fulfils their duty of care obligations. The timetabled teacher is still responsible for the safety of the pupil even after they have been asked to leave the room or area and therefore teachers must direct the pupil to a safe place, ensure that the pupil has gone there and establish that appropriate supervision is in place. In practical terms, this may mean clearly directing a member of staff to follow the pupil.
- Remove the group – Sometimes it is safer to remove the other pupils and take them to a free room. Teachers can identify free rooms by calling reception. The
- safety of the pupil left behind is still the teacher’s responsibility and therefore appropriate supervision must be in place.
- Call for assistance – In some instances, it may be appropriate for the teacher to call for additional staffing to support. The teacher is the person who makes this decision and may direct a colleague to find someone in reception or use their walkie talkie.
- Use of Force – When the risk of not physically intervening is greater than the risk of physically intervening, staff are authorised to use force as long as they apply the appropriate reasonable, necessary and proportionate criteria to each situation, they act honestly and in good faith, and that they apply the minimum force for the shortest amount of time possible.

Searching and Confiscation

Searching can play a critical role in ensuring that schools are safe environments for all pupils and staff. It is a vital measure to safeguard and promote staff and pupil welfare, and to maintain high standards of behaviour through which pupils can learn and thrive.

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The Headteacher and/or staff have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item, as stated in [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#) or any other item that the school rules identify as an item which may be searched for.

Our school's list of prohibited items include:

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).
- an article specified in regulations:
 1. tobacco and cigarette papers
 2. fireworks
 3. pornographic images.

Before the Search

Only the headteacher, or a member of staff authorised by the headteacher, can carry out a search. The headteacher can authorise individual members of staff to search for specific items, or all items set out in the school's behaviour policy.

A search can be considered if the member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item or any item identified in the school rules for which a search can be made, or if the pupil has agreed.

The authorised member of staff should make an assessment of how urgent the need for a search is and should consider the risk to other pupils and staff.

Before any search takes place, the member of staff conducting the search should explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how and where the search is going to take place and give them the opportunity to ask any questions.

The authorised member of staff should always seek the co-operation of the pupil before conducting a search. If the pupil is not willing to co-operate with the search, the member of staff should consider why this is. Reasons might include that they:

- are in possession of a prohibited item
- do not understand the instruction
- are unaware of what a search may involve
- have had a previous distressing experience of being searched.

If the member of staff still considers a search to be necessary, but is not required urgently, they should seek the advice of the headteacher, designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) or pastoral member of staff who

may have more information about the pupil. During this time the pupil should be supervised and kept away from other pupils.

During a Search

An appropriate location for the search should be found. Where possible, this should be away from other pupils. The search must only take place on the school premises or where the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the pupil, for example on a school trip.

The member of staff conducting the search must be of the same sex as the pupil being searched. There must be another member of staff present as a witness to the search.

There is a limited exception to this rule. This is that a member of staff can search a pupil of the opposite sex and/or without a witness present only:

- if the member of staff carrying out the search reasonably believes there is risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not carried out as a matter of urgency; and
- in the time available, it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out by a member of staff who is same sex as the pupil or it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out in the presence of another member of staff.

When a member of staff conducts a search without a witness they should immediately report this to another member of staff, and ensure a record of the search is kept.

Recording and Reporting

Any search by a member of staff for a prohibited item and all searches conducted by police officers should be recorded in the school's safeguarding reporting system, including whether or not an item is found. This will allow the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) to identify possible risks and initiate a safeguarding response if required. All searches for items banned by the school rules should also be recorded. Staff members should follow the school's safeguarding and behaviour policy in these cases.

The information included in the record will include:

- the date, time and location of the search
- which pupil was searched
- who conducted the search and any other adults or pupils present
- what was being searched for
- the reason for searching
- what items, if any, were found
- what follow-up action was taken as a consequence of the search.

Confiscation

An authorised staff member carrying out a search can confiscate any item that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- poses a risk to staff or pupils
- is prohibited, or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made
- is evidence in relation to an offence.

In all cases, staff should notify the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead who will take further action in line with the school's policies and procedures.

Use of Reasonable Force

The Department for Education document, Use of Reasonable Force: Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies, states:

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a pupil needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
4. As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
5. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
6. School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

There is no national regulatory body for the use of physical interventions and therefore there is no 'approved' list of techniques or holds. Certain techniques have been identified as posing a far greater risk of injury or death and under no circumstances should these techniques be used. The techniques in question are: Face- down, prone restraints; **the 'seated double embrace; the 'double basket-hold'; and the 'nose distraction' method.**

All members of school staff, as well as any volunteers, have the legal power to use reasonable force. When deciding whether to use this power, all staff must make a dynamic risk assessment to establish whether the use of force is in the best interests of the pupils, whether it is reasonable, proportionate and necessary, and whether the risk of not using force is greater. Staff should use all their skills in de-escalation, distraction and diversion where possible to avoid the use of force to control or restrain pupils. Staff should be sensitive to the fact that pupils with autism may find any physical contact particularly difficult to manage. British law allows for the lawful use of violence under specific acts of parliament. Under common law, everyone has the right to self-defence which also includes the defence of others. Under the Criminal Damage Act 1971, everyone has the right to use force to protect property. The Criminal Law Act 1967 allows for the use of force to prevent a crime or make an arrest. All of these laws apply at school, just as they do in society.

However, acting lawfully may not protect staff from disciplinary proceedings and all staff should be aware that although the law allows for staff to use force to defend themselves, others, property, and to prevent a crime, the ethos of the school is against the use of pain compliance techniques.

Physical Intervention/Restraint

Restraint is the positive application of sufficient force to ensure, by physical means alone, that a child or young person does no injury either to him/herself, a member of staff, another child or young person, or property.

- Should rarely be used, and only after all other interventions have been exhausted.
- Should be part of pupil's Engagement support Plan (ESP)
- Children with profound and complex needs will need a personalized approach to behaviour management and consideration must be given to sensory needs, pain thresholds and levels of stimulation and engagement.
- Should only be used if the child or young person is putting himself or others in danger and where failure to intervene would constitute neglect.
- If used, it must be recorded in the school's incident recording system- CPOMS
- Where appropriate a risk assessment will need to be carried out.
- After a reflection/staff debrief*, a positive handling strategy may be included in the pupil's ESP. This may apply when an individual child or young person needs physical intervention strategies as a part of an ongoing ESP.
- Staff should update the child or young person's ESP after a significant incident, outlining any interventions or specific approaches. As before this should occur after a reflection meeting led by the Behaviour Specialist
- Staff need to be able to establish the possible consequences of using a particular EDR method or methods of physical intervention when difficult behaviour occurs.
- If restraint is used, parents/carers need to be contacted before the child arrives home.

What Is 'Physical Intervention'?

There is a difference between Physical Intervention and Restrictive Physical Intervention. In this school these are defined as follows:

Type Definition Example

Non-restrictive physical interventions- Where physical touch is used to support the young person and they have the choice to move away from the touch or where a cause of distress can be removed without the need to touch the young person.

In this school this may include:

- guiding/shepherding a person from A to B
- Removal of a cause of distress, such as adjusting temperature, light or background noise.

Restrictive physical interventions- Where the adult takes control of the young person and their actions to prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility. In this school this may include:

- Using physical interventions
- Removing other children from the classroom but **never** leaving a child alone
- Blocking a person's path

Duty of Care

Staff should be aware that their employment imposes upon them a duty of care to maintain an acceptable level of safety. It is acknowledged that the behaviour of children and young people can become dangerous and physical intervention may be required. This is inevitably a high-risk action. Guidelines cannot anticipate every situation and, therefore, the sound judgement of staff always is crucial. This may mean not getting physically involved if this would put you at direct risk but could include summoning relevant assistance. It is not acceptable to do nothing.

The two types of physical interventions likely to be required in the school are: -

Emergency/unplanned interventions- Use of force which occurs in response to unforeseen events. This should always be a trigger for a Risk Assessment and planning once it has occurred.

Planned interventions- Any situation that staff might reasonably expect to occur, in which staff employ, where necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods which are based on a risk assessment. Planned Interventions must be recorded on their ESP. This could be in an individual plan for the management of the behaviour of a specific pupil but could be generic risk assessments and plans for situations which are likely to occur such as a fight in a playground.

Staff training

All staff will receive initial and regular training in the **Engage, Disengage, Re-engage** approach to behaviour support, ensuring a consistent, relational, and trauma-informed response across the school. This training will equip staff to proactively engage pupils through positive relationships and clear expectations, to recognise when a pupil is becoming dysregulated and to safely disengage to de-escalate situations, and to effectively re-engage pupils in learning through supportive and restorative practices. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the needs of pupils with SEND, including communication differences, sensory needs, and emotional regulation. Ongoing professional development, coaching, and reflective practice opportunities will ensure that staff maintain confidence and consistency in applying this approach.

Glossary of terms used in policy

Active Listening

Techniques to show full attention and understanding during communication, including empathy, non-verbal cues, and validation.

CPOMS

The platform used for documenting and reporting incidents involving restrictive physical intervention (RPI) and other significant events.

Boundaries

Clear, healthy limits set in relationships to provide consistency and promote trust within the school community.

Challenging Conversations

Difficult but necessary discussions to help pupils develop emotional regulation and clarity about their emotions and actions.

Child on Child Abuse

Behaviours between children that cause harm, including bullying or other forms of abusive interaction.

Clear Communication

Concise, consistent communication strategies that promote understanding and confidence in young people.

Collaborative Partnerships

Joint efforts between staff, pupils, and families to build trust and support positive outcomes for young people.

Collaborative Problem-Solving

A method of working with pupils to resolve issues and improve their ability to self-regulate and make positive choices.

Communication without Demand

Strategies to foster relationships with pupils through non-demanding, positive interactions, such as greetings or casual conversations.

Corporal Punishment

The use of physical force as a disciplinary measure, which is strictly prohibited under this policy.

Debrief

A reflective process after challenging interactions to understand decisions, rebuild relationships, and offer support to all involved.

De-escalation Techniques

Non-physical strategies used to calm and manage situations before they escalate into dangerous or harmful behaviours.

Deprivation of Liberty

A legal term describing actions that restrict an individual's freedom of movement or decision-making. Any such restriction must be documented and justified according to legal and ethical guidelines.

Empathy

The ability to understand and share the feelings of others, fostering connection and respect.

Engagement Support Plan (ESP)

Individualised plans tailored to each pupil's needs, guiding staff in managing and supporting challenging behaviours.

Equality of Access / Learner Passport

Documents outlining accommodations to ensure an inclusive learning environment for all pupils.

Mirroring

Using non-verbal cues like body language and facial expressions to reflect a pupil's emotions and promote calmness.

Modelling

Demonstrating positive behaviours and attitudes to guide pupils in social and emotional interactions.

Positive Culture

A school environment that views mistakes as opportunities for growth and encourages restorative practices.

Processing and Response Time

The additional time pupils may need to understand and respond to information, requiring patience from staff.

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

Physical actions taken as a last resort to prevent harm, which must be documented and communicated per policy.

Restorative Dialogue

Conversations aimed at repairing harm and restoring trust after conflicts or incidents.

Risk Assessment

A process within the ESP to evaluate potential risks and outline tailored support strategies for managing behavioural challenges.

Routine and Structure

Consistent practices and schedules that help pupils feel secure and supported in their learning environment.

Sensory Considerations

Adjustments made to the environment or interactions to address individual sensory needs of pupils.

Social Communication

Interactions that foster understanding, respect, and connection, supported by modeling and tailored strategies.

Zones of Regulation

A framework to help pupils recognise and manage their emotions by categorising them into color-coded zones.

Appendix A

1. Legal Frameworks

This policy adheres to the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 1996 and 2011
- Education and inspections Act 2006

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Use of Reasonable Force (DfE Guidance 2013)
- Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement (DfE Guidance August 2024)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, 2024)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice 2015

2. Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) refers to the use of physical contact to manage situations where a pupil's behaviour poses a significant risk of harm to themselves, others, or property.

RPI is only employed:

- To prevent imminent harm to the pupil or others.
- To prevent significant damage to property.
- To ensure safety in situations of dangerous behaviour that cannot be managed by other means.

Principles for Using RPI

- RPI must be reasonable, proportionate, and absolutely necessary to manage the risk.
- De-escalation and non-physical strategies should be attempted prior to the use of physical intervention.
- Interventions must prioritise the safety, dignity, and well-being of all individuals involved.
- RPI must not involve the deliberate infliction of pain or techniques likely to cause injury.

Training and Review

- All staff authorised to use RPI must receive training on positive handling, de-escalation techniques and safe physical intervention.
- Regular reviews of RPI incidents and practices will be conducted to ensure
- A compliance with legal standards and ethical guidelines.

3. Restriction of Liberty

Restriction of liberty refers to any action limiting a pupil's freedom of movement, including seclusion or isolation. Restriction or Deprivation of Liberty is the legal term that describes when a person's freedom is restricted to the extent that they cannot leave a place or make decisions about their own movements.

Guidance on Use

- Restriction of liberty may only be used in exceptional circumstances to ensure safety.
- Isolation rooms, if used, must comply with the DfE's guidance:
 - Pupils must have their basic needs met (e.g., access to water and the toilet).
 - Supervision must be continuous and in line with Engagement Support Plans.

- Locking doors to enforce isolation is strictly prohibited.

Accountability

- All instances of restricted liberty must be documented and reviewed by the senior leadership team (SLT).
- Parents/carers must be informed on the day when restriction of liberty is employed.

4. Suspension and Exclusions

Suspension is a temporary removal from school, while exclusion is a permanent removal.

Only the Headteacher (or person identified to deputise in their absence) can authorise a suspension or permanent exclusion. Please refer to the Suspensions & Exclusions Policy

5. Prohibited Sanctions

Staff should be aware that the following sanctions are prohibited, and should never be used:

- Corporal punishment
- Deprivation of food or drink
- Requiring pupils to wear distinctive or inappropriate clothing
- Withholding communication¹
- Withholding curriculum activities without it being a formal internal exclusion

Appendix B | Engagement Support Plan Format (ESP)

Engagement Support Plan (To be completed with parent/carer)	
Name:	Class:
Trusted Adult: (This person can help me when I am really disengaged)	

<u>Six Things I Need To Help Me Regulate</u>	
Positive Strategies that help keep me engaged related to my 'Six Things'	
Minor dysregulation What does this look like?	How to help me, including Positive Physical Interaction
-	e.g. Deep pressure hug
Moderate dysregulation What does this look like?	How to help me, including Physical Support
-	e.g. Guided to a quiet space as I may not be able to choose to go there.
High Level Challenge (RPI)	Should there be a major incident of dysregulation that requires Restrictive Physical Intervention, this must be recorded on CPOMS, and parents informed.
How to support my debrief: e.g. 'the way I like to calm', 'the words I like to use'	
<u>Historical Behaviours in the past 12 months (even if they are no longer present)</u>	

<u>Historical Traumatic Incidents in the past 12 months (involving other children/staff etc at previous setting)</u>
<u>Historical traumatic events - home life</u>
<u>Any further action required? (Risk assessment etc)</u>

These people know about my plan and understand the work that is being done to help me	
Parents:	Date:
Class teacher:	Date:
Class:	Date:
Inclusion Practitioner	Date:
Inclusion Practitioner	Date:
Inclusion Practitioner	Date:
To be reviewed termly and filtered into a behaviour support plan if required. Copies of plans will be sent home and stored in child's folder and used in class by all staff working with the pupil.	

Staff involved in any major incident should meet to reflect, review, and identify next steps. This should be recorded on CPOMS

Appendix C

Descriptor	Description
High Level Challenge	High level physical challenge where RPI has been used to keep pupils safe.
Persistent Dysregulation	Repeated incidents of dysregulation across the week eg. spitting at peers throughout the day across the week. This should then be added to a young person's ESP.
Bullying (inc. Cyber Bullying)	There is no legal definition of bullying. However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is: repeated. intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally. often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
Significant Behaviour of Note	Incident where significant change in 'usual' behaviours are demonstrated. Examples include sexualised behaviours, acts of discrimination and bullying, cyberbullying.