



**OFG**  
Education

# Relational and Inclusive Behaviour Policy

Trauma Informed and  
Neurodiversity Affirming Practice

For Acorn Education and Options Autism  
Schools and Colleges



**Bramfield House  
School**



## BEHAVIOUR POLICY

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**This policy is for Acorn Education and Options Autism schools and colleges**

**Terminology** - please note that the terms “our teams” and “team member/s” include everyone working with the people in Outcomes First Group’s services in a paid or unpaid capacity, including employees, consultants, agency staff and contractors.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

We place the safety, wellbeing and belonging of the children and young people we educate and support as our highest priority. We are committed to meeting their individual strengths and needs through a relational, inclusive and needs-led approach, creating a culture where children and young people feel safe, understood and able to flourish in their education. Our approach is informed by clinical wellbeing strategies and current evidence relating to trauma-informed, neurodiversity-affirming and inclusive practice.

Our schools and colleges have different identities and approaches, which are unique to them and reflect the strengths, needs and contexts of their pupils and students. The aim of this policy is to promote positive behaviour through a consistent, relational and inclusive approach that helps adults understand behaviour as communication, support children and young people to learn new skills, and repair relationships when difficulties occur.

Bramfield House School is a specialist provision which offers support for children and young people with complex needs. It is an all-boys establishment catering for the age range of 7-16 and is registered for 136 pupils. We are situated in rural Suffolk 10 minutes' drive from the heritage coast. The classroom facilities are independently placed within the grounds and consist of purpose-made specialist subject provisions. The school's local arrangements can be read in Appendix 1.

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The school has a neurodiversity affirming, trauma-informed, needs-led approach that encourages positive behaviour by proactively recognising and flexibly supporting our pupils and students' holistic individual needs. Team members are trained to apply this approach in practice at all times and support our children and young people consistently and fairly, developing positive, respectful relationships with them.

## 2.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND GUIDANCE

This policy complies with all relevant regulations and other legislation as detailed, including:

- [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#)
- [The Independent School Standards \(Guidance for independent schools- updated April 2019\)](#)
- [Equality Act \(2010\)](#)
- [Education Act \(2011\)](#)
- [Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- [Positive environments where children can flourish, Ofsted Guidance \(2021\)](#)
- [Behaviour in Schools: A guide for Head Teachers and School Staff \(2024\)](#)
- [Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools: Guidance for schools in England, April 2026](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#)
- [Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(July 2022\)](#)



- [Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention, 2019](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years](#)

The Behaviour in Schools guidance recognises the importance of clear expectations, routines and a calm, safe and supportive environment. In our specialist settings, this is implemented through a relational, inclusive and needs-led approach rather than a punitive or sanctions-based model. We recognise that many pupils and students have lived experience of trauma, neurodivergent trauma, educational trauma and complex needs, and that behaviourist approaches alone can increase shame, distress and disconnection when they are not balanced with understanding, reasonable adjustments, co-regulation, learning and repair. This therefore negatively effects their ability to engage effectively in education.

[Behaviour in Schools: A guide for Head Teachers and School Staff \(2024\)](#) is clear that good behaviour in educational settings is central to a good education, with settings providing a calm, safe and supportive environment which pupils and students want to attend and where they can learn and thrive.

### **3.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Group is committed to reducing the use of restraint and restrictive practices and supporting preventative practices across all services and is part of the Reducing Restraint Network. The Group's Restraint Reduction Practices Board has developed a policy supplement, *The Use of Restrictive Practices and Restraint Terms of Reference*, which must be implemented as part of this policy.

Our schools and colleges are underpinned by our needs-led and (Acorn Schools - Trauma Informed Practice Strategy, drawing upon evidence-based core principles of **Connect, Co-Regulate, Co-Reflect** (Options settings – Neurodiversity Strategy drawing upon evidence-based principles of Ask, Accept, Develop. Both the Strategy and Accreditation have been shared with our Lived Experience Expert Group and Advisory Board.)

This policy should be read alongside the above strategies, guidance and other relevant school and Group policies and guidance, including:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Child-on-Child Abuse/Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusions Policy
- Self-Harm/Self-Injurious Behaviour policies
- Medication Policy
- Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy
- Managing Allegations Against Employees Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Trauma Informed Practice Strategy (Connect, Co-Regulate and Co-Reflect)
- Ask, Accept, Develop



- Parent\Carer -School Communication Policy
- Serious Incident Notification Policy

## **4.0 PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY**

This policy aims to promote a move towards an evidence and person-centred, inclusive approach where our pupils and students are supported to experience a sense of belonging, to learn effective ways of managing their emotions and behaviour to prepare for their future.

The policy, practice and procedures aim to reflect and demonstrate the importance of the school's commitment to promoting the entitlement of children and young people to the highest quality of education. This policy aims to promote an evidence based and inclusive approach where pupils and students are supported to learn effective ways of managing their emotions and behaviour to prepare for their future.

## **4.1 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Everyone is expected and supported to treat one another with dignity, kindness and respect. We use an 'inclusion by design' model, meaning we proactively create school and college environments which are predictable, accessible, relationally safe and responsive to individual needs. This includes using data and daily observations to notice triggers and patterns, such as particular times of day, lessons, transitions or environments where pupils may need additional support, so that reasonable adjustments and proactive plans can be put in place before distress escalates.

This policy can be implemented alongside Individual Plans, which may identify a specific approach tailored to a pupil's/ student's strengths and needs.

When incidents of behavioural distress and emotional dysregulation occur, we respond promptly, predictably and with confidence to maintain a calm, safe learning environment. The ultimate aim when an incident occurs is to de-escalate and co-regulate the situation, reducing distress and helping everyone return to safety and calm. We consider and reflect together how the likelihood of such incidents recurring can be reduced. Post-incident reflection and learning occurs at the end of each day to consider everyone's actions and responses and how to improve practice.

## **5.0 OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Young people are all individual and unique and we celebrate this.

- ❖ We have an inclusive by design approach.
- ❖ We value developing strong and respectful relationships within the whole school community. This includes young people, between team members, with parents/carers, and the wider community, such as CAMHS.
- ❖ We maintain clear boundaries and expectations to create safe and predictable environments.
- ❖ We regularly consult pupils to ensure their voices are heard.



- ❖ We recognise children can be distressed and can experience meltdowns or shutdowns. We also recognise that some behaviours are just part of everyone's childhood and adolescence, for example, pushing boundaries when developing independence.
- ❖ We recognise that as a whole school community we impact one another. Regular reflective practice enables us to understand, make sense of and support this impact positively.
- ❖ Our philosophy is never based on punishment but **focused on solutions**. Our young people are managing the best way that they know how, with the skills they currently have.
- ❖ There are times when children may become so distressed that additional measures may be required to keep them and others safe. Our team members are trained to respond appropriately and must always use the least restrictive intervention possible.
- ❖ Our team members are role models in helping our pupils learn more skillful ways to experience success and create inclusive communities.

All team members are trained in CPI approaches appropriate to their role, which support a person-centred, trauma-informed response to children and young people in distress. This means prioritising prevention, early intervention, de-escalation and co-regulation, while using shared CPI language to assess risk and make calm, proportionate decisions. Any physical intervention, including holds, is only ever used as a last resort when there is an imminent or immediate risk of harm, and must be reasonable, proportionate, least restrictive, for the shortest time possible, and focused on maximising safety and minimising harm.

## **6.0 MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF WELL BEING TO SUPPORT POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

Senior Leaders take responsibility for implementing measures to ensure our approach to supporting needs and behaviour meets the following national minimum expectation:

- ❖ We have high expectations of pupils and students. Expectations relating to behaviour are always understood in the context of individual strengths, needs, communication, development and reasonable adjustments. We help children and young people understand that support may look different for different pupils because fairness means responding to need, not treating everyone the same.
- ❖ School leaders visibly and consistently support all team members in supporting pupils'/students' needs and behaviour through following this policy.
- ❖ Universal and personalised measures are in place to support our pupils to be the best versions of themselves.
- ❖ All members of the school community create a positive safe environment in which bullying behaviour, physical threats or abuse and intimidation are not tolerated, in which pupils are safe and feel safe and everyone is treated respectfully.



- ❖ Any incidents of bullying behaviour, sexual violence and harassment, discrimination, aggression, and derogatory language (including name calling) are dealt with quickly and effectively.

## 6.1 KEY ROLES

**The Role of School Leaders** - Our school leadership team is highly visible, with leaders routinely engaging with pupils, students, parents / carers and team members on setting and maintaining the school culture and an environment where everyone feels safe and supported.

Leaders ensure that all new team members are inducted into the setting's culture to ensure they understand its rules and routines and how best to support pupils and students to participate in creating the culture of the setting.

All new team members receive bespoke training as part of their induction into understanding the needs of the pupils through the group's Trauma Informed Practice modules and Neurodiversity training modules as appropriate, and *CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) De-escalation and Behaviour Management Training*. Ongoing training and support are also provided via the professional development arrangements and the Group's Well-being and Clinical Team.

Leaders ensure that all existing staff receive timely refresher courses of the above, that are kept up to date. Alongside this, additional training enforcing an inclusive by design school are implemented to all staff throughout each academic year. These are catered to the needs of the school.

**The Role of team members** - All team members have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn, including regulation of their own emotions and behaviour, encouraging respect for others, and preventing all forms of bullying behaviour (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying) and being alert to any signs of child-on-child abuse. Team members have an important role in developing a calm and safe environment and establishing clear expectations and boundaries. Team members uphold the whole-setting approach to behaviour by teaching and modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships so that pupils can see examples of good habits and are confident to ask for help when needed.

Team members communicate the school expectations, routines, values and standards both explicitly through teaching skills, visual support and in every interaction with pupils. Team members also receive clear guidance about expectations of their own conduct, which are set out in the Group's *Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy*.

**The role of pupils** - All pupils deserve to learn in an environment that is calm, safe, supportive and where they are treated with dignity. To achieve this, every pupil is made aware, in line with their individual capacity, of the school standards, expectations, pastoral support, and therapeutic consequence processes. Pupils and students are taught that they have a duty to contribute to the school culture and are asked about their experience of



the school and provide feedback in ways that are accessible and meaningful to them. This can help support the evaluation, improvement and implementation of this policy. Every pupil/student is supported to achieve the best standards they can, including an induction and transition process that familiarises them with the school culture.

**The role of parents/carers** – The role of parents/carers is crucial in helping the school to develop and maintain our culture and approach. Including parents and carers within the whole School community is key to ensure comprehensive support around the young person. Parents/carers are encouraged to get to know our Behaviour Policy and related policies and, where possible, take part in the life of the school and its culture. Parents/carers should be encouraged to reinforce the policy at home as appropriate. Where a parent/carer has any concerns, they should raise this directly with the school while continuing to work in partnership with them.

We build and maintain positive relationships with parents/carers, by keeping them updated about their child, encouraging them to celebrate successes, or holding sessions for parents/carers to help them support the consistency of the policy and their child's needs. Where appropriate, parents/carers should be included in pastoral work, including attending reviews of specific interventions in place.

**Clinical and Well-Being Approaches** – The overarching wellbeing approach throughout the Group is embedded by delivering care, education and clinical provisions that meet a young person's needs, informed by current wellbeing research theory and evidence. The Clinical Well-Being Team is multi-disciplined, and includes psychology/psychotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. The Team provides training, consultation, individual therapy, group sessions and facilitate reflective practice for team members.

They aim to support social, communication needs, emotional regulation, emotional and physical disabilities and complex needs in a neuroaffirming TIP informed approach by engaging with the whole school; staff and pupils. This is to support pupils have the best chance to access their education, be able to behave with respect, dignity and care for themselves and others in an inclusive way. This will equip them for their futures to be the best they can be.

**Focus on relationships** – Positive and meaningful relationships throughout the whole-school community are essential to fostering a healthy environment for all. Empathy, trust and consistency are all important in building relationships. For various reasons, children can test and challenge relationships, therefore adults responsible for them require the ability to sensitively and confidently manage the adult-child relationship. There is an expectation that we are kind to one another and help to lead and drive high standards of culture and positive behaviour across the Group to benefit young people.

**Individual needs** – We celebrate difference and make reasonable adjustments to enable children to access learning and engaging to the best of their ability. This approach is informed by formal assessments (e.g. Educational/Clinical Psychologist), EHCP's, Clinical Documents and Plans and getting to know our young people – their likes, dislikes, and how to help them reach their potential. As far as possible, we use a proactive approach to anticipate potential stressors that might lead to behaviour.



## 7.0 CREATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- **Clear expectations and consistent boundaries:** We clearly communicate our expectations through speech, visuals and modelling so all team members and pupils/students (in line with their ability) are aware of the expectations and boundaries appropriate to their strengths and needs.
- **The Curriculum:** Our behaviour curriculum is part of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship / Sex and Relationships curriculums.
- **Routines:** Routines and structure are integral to the school day. For example, team members will ensure that pupils and students receive a timetable for their learning and daily activities that is appropriate to their unique age and stage.
- **Environment:** We create calm, welcoming and clean spaces, taking into account the sensory sensitivities and needs of our population.
- **Communication:** We use a total communication approach which aligns with the communication strengths and needs of our population.
- **Emotional Understanding:** Many of our pupils may experience more intense emotional responses and/or struggle to process, share, express their emotions. We support our pupils to develop skills to understand and manage their emotions and behaviour through the use of models, such as, the *Zones of Regulation*. This helps supports a shared language approach within the whole-school community.

**What we do not support** – this list is inclusive of, but not exhaustive – the Group does not support talking about children and young people in front of them or others, shouting at one another, swearing, and disrespectful language.

## 8.0 USE OF REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Recognition - We recognise and celebrate effort not just achievement and examples of our rewards and reinforcements include praise, 'Star of the Week,' days out, unexpected rewards, choice time, certificates, DOJO points / positive sleuth entries. Achievements will be shared with the wider community, such as parents/carers. Rewards are never taken away from a student once they have been earned for the intention of providing a sanction. The use of food as rewards will not be relied upon.
- Rankings – Reward systems will not be on public display as we recognise this could be shaming and demotivating for some young people.
- Unfair incentives - we have eliminated unfair school incentives, such as attendance awards, as we know neurodivergent young people and young people with complex needs may have difficult days when they struggle to attend school and they should not be penalised for this.
- Use of monetary rewards – Money will not be used as an incentive for good behaviour

### Rewards:

The achievement of points sets an expectation and a cognitive understanding that encourages students to 'work towards' something of benefit to them, thus promoting positive behaviours and reinforcing this through praise and recognition. This approach also

promotes motivation, determination, enthusiasm and improved confidence. Resilience is established through improved self-esteem and students having the confidence to take controlled risks.

We believe that it is important to encourage good behaviour throughout the school by celebrating and rewarding positive behaviour. This will include the use of incentives to praise young people for positive actions, stimulating a voluntary and progressive improvement in their behaviour and increasing their motivation towards the achievement of social and emotional development.

Our points systems are class based either using our sleuth points system or class Dojo. This is a person-centred points system in place to support the young people to achieve inside the classroom and socially across the school day. We believe that awarding points and recognising positive interactions and social experiences supports with a positive community and culture.

Our 'Bramfield boy ethos' links directly to our points system where our young people gain points (1 for each value achieved within the lesson) linked directly to assessment for learning. They are the following:

**Ready** – Understanding key vocabulary related to each lesson – Talk, understand and use key vocabulary.

**Team** – Engagement- Asking and answering questions (Joining in)

**Adventure** – Achieving success criteria and talking about your learning

**Spark** – Presentation- work is well presented with next steps completed

**Grit** – Extending your learning – Have you retained and mastered?

Our young people can also achieve points directly linked to the values below: These are monitored on sleuth and staff members can add these on at any point throughout the day.

|                            |                                     |                                   |                                       |                                |                               |                                 |                                      |                                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Skip to Next               | Accepted failure                    | Accepted responsibility           | Actively sought new challenge         | Actively sought new experience | Attempted new activity        | Attempted new challenge         | Did not show fight / flight response | Displayed British Values               |
| Displayed compassion       | Displayed coping strategies         | Displayed determination           | Displayed empathy                     | Displayed generosity           | Displayed good moral values   | Displayed persistence           | Displayed tolerance                  | Encouraged others to make right choice |
| Engaged for whole lesson   | Engaged in Charity activity         | Engaged in community project      | Engaged in reparation activity        | Helped others                  | Improved communication skills | Improved Motivation             | Improved self-awareness              | Improved self-esteem                   |
| Lesson Objective Achieved  | Listened well                       | Managed difficult situation       | Positive behaviour in wider community | Positive contribution          | Praised a peer                | Read non-verbal cues            | read social cues                     | Reflected with staff support           |
| Requested additional work  | Resisted peer pressure              | Responded positively to criticism | Self-reflected                        | Shared with a peer             | Showed respect                | Showed self-control             | Spoke in front of class              | Team player                            |
| Took turns in conversation | Tried something out of comfort zone | Understood right from wrong       | Wanted to succeed                     | Worked well in a large group   | Worked well in a small group  | Worked without incentive/reward | Completed additional work            | +ve Reinforcer                         |
| Weekly Target              |                                     |                                   |                                       |                                |                               |                                 |                                      |                                        |



Our young people can redeem points at any stage and ‘cash them in’ to receive an incentive / option of their choice. The system is person centred, and the young person can work towards a prize that they would like

(Toy for example). The points system is also a positive way of the young person getting used to saving, as points can be saved and redeemed for a higher prize. This is a positive rewards system where the following can be achieved:

- 1 point for each of the learning objectives achieved within the lesson. (Ready, Team, Adventure, Spark and Grit)
- Total of 5 points per lesson (1 point for each objective achieved)
- More points can be achieved by targets set by staff and / or on double / treble point's days.

Class DOJO is used where points are rewarded for educational and social progress linked to ‘Bramfield boy’. Grit, spark, team, ready and adventure. Person centred targets are also added and rewarded. Each young person's parents / carers have access to class DOJO as this enables us as a school to interact with home and showcase what the individual is doing at school. Class DOJO has supported our young people and their families to engage in positive conversations and has allowed parents / carers to make a positive contribution to the individual's day.

In parallel with the sleuth points system, each young person can choose when to redeem the points that they have gained. The longer that the points are saved the bigger the prize. The system supports us to educate the young people about saving also.

Different class access the DOJO shop or DOJO prize boxes as we recognise that positive outcomes deserve to be recognise and the use of smaller instant prizes support with this.

Choice time is offered across the school to our young people, and this is to support our young people with positive social experiences and interactions. At times there are options for a reward trip for the young people who are engaging and are recognised for the week. The staff decide on the young people who should access this by looking at points and recognising hard work and effort throughout the week.



## **9.0 PRESCRIBED MEDICATION – Team members must be familiar with the Medication Policy**

Children and young people within our settings may take prescribed medication. We will work in collaboration with the prescribing professionals and those supporting the young person to ensure their needs are well supported, in line with our legal responsibilities. We will support and monitor the impact of this medication. Attendance at school is not dependent on a pupil or student taking their medication. We will also support young people in their informed consent around medication.

## **10.0 RESPONDING TO DISTRESS AND NEED**

There are times when our pupils/students become distressed and may require other sources of support. When a team member becomes aware they respond empathically, predictably, promptly and clearly in line with this policy.

The first priority will be to establish the physical and emotional safety of pupils, students and team members and to restore a calm environment. Keeping children and young people safe is always the highest priority for all team members.

We will also consider whether the behaviour gives cause to suspect that a pupil is suffering, or is likely to suffer, harm. Team members must be familiar with, and follow, the setting's Safeguarding Policy. All concerns, no matter how small, that a child or young person is being harmed or is at risk of harm must be reported to the setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy.

The school has responsibility to respond to pupils'/student's behaviour outside of the setting's premises (including online) to such an extent as is reasonable.

The school adopts a range of initial intervention strategies to help emotional regulation and behaviour.

## **11.0 NATURAL AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES**

Positive reinforcement, recognition, relational repair and natural or logical consequences are important parts of supporting our whole school culture. Consequences are not used as punishment; they are used to maintain safety, support learning, repair harm and help pupils and students understand the impact of actions in a way that is fair, proportionate and connected to what has happened.

All children and young people require boundaries and consequences that are fair, predictable and understandable. Children and Young People are encouraged to be a part of devising and co-producing these.

Natural consequences occur without the intervention of an adult. For example, a young person might throw a favoured object when they are feeling angry which might then break and therefore cannot be used. Shame is also considered a natural consequence, and young people will require support with this.

Logical consequences are adult-led responses that are directly linked to the event and are used when a natural consequence would not occur, would be unsafe, or would not



provide enough support for learning and repair. For example, if a young person removes their seatbelt during a car journey, the immediate logical consequence may be to stop the journey safely and review the travel plan before further journeys take place, so that seat belts can be worn and everyone can travel safely.

Natural and logical consequences will be communicated to the young person in an empathic and collaborative way, never in a shaming way.

Examples of natural and logical consequences include: if a pupil damages shared equipment, the linked response is to help repair it where possible, replace it if appropriate, or agree how the equipment can be used safely next time; if a pupil uses hurtful language, the linked response is to support reflection, repair and a safer way of communicating when everyone is ready; if a pupil leaves a learning space because they are overwhelmed, the linked response is to co-regulate first, then review what made the space difficult and agree what support or adjustment is needed for re-entry; if a pupil disrupts learning and misses key work, the linked response may be supported catch-up time so they can complete the learning and feel ready for the next lesson.

We do not use punitive sanctions, for example detention or removal of privileges. These can promote a sense of shame, are often not linked to the behaviour and therefore do not encourage our pupils to learn what to do instead. The consequence must always be linked to the behaviour to provide a learning opportunity.

Repairing relationships (a restorative approach) is a key part of natural and logical consequences and it is the team member's responsibility to approach this repair if it is difficult for the young person.

## 12.0 DE-ESCALATION

De-escalation techniques are our primary responsive strategies, these include:

- our team members will use a calm approach with neutral body language
- our team members will use minimal verbal interactions during de-escalation
- We will use positive framing language ("kind hands" rather than "stop hitting")
- We will use planned and proactive positive distraction (for example talk about the young person's passion)
- we will divert the young person to a different, preferred activity or experience
- change their environment (for example allowing a young person to access a calm room or outdoor safe space)
- We will encourage the young person to engage in a preferred sensory activity or strategy to help them co-regulate
- changes to the team supporting the young person
- use of space and allowing the young person to move and run, perhaps complete a sensory circuit.
- using visual supports to support the young person to process and understand
- any unique strategies that the young person themselves has requested as part of their consultation to their individualised plan that aligns with the Ask, Accept, Develop Strategy and Connect, Co-Regulate and Co-Reflect.

We do not use:



- planned ignoring
- asking a student why they are behaving in a certain way
- any shame based approach
- any language which could be interpreted as threatening, e.g. last chance.'

## 13.0 THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

We are aware that restraint of any kind can have a negative impact on a child's mental health and damage relationships between children and those who educate for them. We work closely to integrate the AAD, TIP and RRN Strategies.

Restraint is only ever used as a last resort response to maximise safety and minimise harm of the child/young person and others.

A reasonable, proportionate and least restrictive course of action is taken when there is an imminent or immediate risk of harm to self or others.

It will always be used for the shortest time possible and only when there is no other alternative to help children and young people and team members to stay safe. Team members are fully trained using CPI and work in line with the Group's ***Use of Restrictive Intervention and Reasonable Force Policy***.

Where possible we consult with all pupils about their de-escalation plans to ensure their voice is heard and understood in relation to their triggers and how they want their team members to respond.

## 14.0 SEARCHING, SCREENING AND CONFISCATION

Team members can confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property in line with the [DFE's Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) Guidance. Team members should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case.

Items which contribute to the pupil's wellbeing, neurodiversity and sense of safety (for example fidget toys) will never be removed unless there is a risk of significant harm.

## 15.0 REMOVAL FROM CLASSROOM

Removal from a classroom is only ever considered when the safety and wellbeing of the individual, classmates and team members are at risk, or when a short, planned change of environment is needed to support regulation and maintain learning for everyone. We will always consider the potential impact on others' learning in the immediate area. The pupil or student will continue to be supervised at a level appropriate to their emotional, communication and cognitive needs. At times, it may be safer and less disruptive to move peers rather than the distressed pupil or student, so that dignity, safety and regulation are maintained.

The Headteacher, Principal or equivalent maintains strategic oversight of any removals, makes sure the reasons that may lead to pupils being removed are transparent and known to all team members, pupils and students, that removal is for the shortest time possible, in an appropriate place that is resourced to learn and refocus, supervised by trained team



members, with a clear process for reintegration of the pupil into the classroom as soon as it is appropriate and safe to do so. Pupils will not be removed from classrooms for prolonged periods of time without the explicit agreement of the Headteacher, Principal or equivalent.

Team members will reflect on and review the action that was taken to make practice improvements where possible.

## **16.0 SUSPENSION AND PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS**

All pupils and students are entitled to an education where they are protected from disruption and can learn in a calm, safe and supportive environment. Headteachers, Principal or equivalent can use suspension and permanent exclusion in response to serious incidents and to enable time to make the environment safe and ready again before the pupil/student returns.

This will also be seen as a very last resort, as removing a pupil/student from school as an environment with trusted adults is rarely likely to be in a pupil's/student's best interests. We also recognise the impact this might have on the young person and or parent/carers and will work to support the young person and their family/carers. Please refer to the ***Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy*** for more information.

## **17.0 POST-INCIDENT REFLECTION AND LEARNING**

It is good practice to provide a space for young people to take part in post-incident reflection and learning following a significant incident and to support relationship repair. This should happen at a time that is appropriate, timely and when everyone is ready. We can use visual, narrative and communication-based approaches to support reflection and learning. We recognise that some neurodivergent pupils may struggle to reflect immediately, may not recall events clearly following a meltdown or shutdown, or may need a different approach to make sense of what happened. Post-incident reflection and learning should therefore be individualised, non-shaming and completed in the pupil's best interests. Trauma-informed and neurodiversity-affirming post-incident reflection and learning documents are available and align with the Restraint Reduction Network pledge.

### **17.1 COLLEAGUE WELL BEING**

It is recognised that managing complex needs can be stressful for team members, and we aim to create a positive and trauma-informed whole-setting culture. Our strategies support individuals to be aware of and manage their own well-being. Schools and support colleagues after an incident and/or challenging day in a non-judgmental and empathic safe space, and post-incident reflection and learning is mandatory. Teams are also supported with regular reflective practice groups to enable them to process the impact of the work.

## **18.0 RECORDING AND REPORTING**

The school has a strong and effective system for data capture, including all components of the behaviour culture, for example Sleuth. This is monitored through trends and



patterns which are objectively analysed by designated team members, with a clear monitoring and evaluation cycle and engagement from school leaders and governors. This enables us to take a proactive whole school approach to reducing distress, behaviour incidents and restrictive practice, including identifying patterns such as particular times of day, lessons, transitions, locations, unmet needs, environmental factors or relational ruptures that may require preventative support.

School leaders and team members analyse and audit data with an objective lens and from multiple perspectives: at school level, group level, individual team member level and pupil/student level. Leaders use this analysis to identify possible factors contributing to behaviour, unmet need, system barriers, environmental stressors or gaps in support. Analysing data by protected characteristic, and using those findings to inform reasonable adjustments, policy and practice, helps the setting meet its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and reduce the risk of discriminatory or disproportionate responses.

**Reporting to outside agencies:** Behaviours presented by the young people which are dangerous or criminally harmful will require reporting to outside agencies, such as the police. If concerns are raised about team members, referral to outside agencies may be required, such as the Local Authority or police. Team members must follow the process set out in the *Safeguarding Policy* and *Managing Allegations Against an Employee Policy*.

## 19.0 ANTI BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

Children and young people may lack the social skills required to manage relationships, and/or they may not have learnt a way of managing relationships through appropriate role modelling. Team members will remain vigilant to signs of bullying behaviour, which could be obvious or subtle, in person or online, and will be dealt with according to the ***Anti-Bullying Behaviour Policy***.

## 20.0 CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE and SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

**Please refer to the *Child-on-child Abuse Policy***

Following any report or concerns raised of child-on-child abuse or sexual harassment offline or online, the school will follow the *Child-on-Child Abuse Policy* and notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy immediately. They should also inform their Clinical Well-being Lead. The school is clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, will not be tolerated and that incidents where behaviour falls below expectations will be addressed. All team members are aware of the importance of challenging all inappropriate language and behaviour between pupils. The school will never normalise sexually abusive language or behaviour by treating it as 'banter', an inevitable fact of life or an expected part of growing up. We advocate strenuously for high standards of conduct between pupils/students and team members; they should demonstrate and model manners, courtesy and dignified/respectful relationships.

It is essential that all victims are reassured they will be supported, kept safe, and are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a



problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or their experience minimised.

## **21.0 ONLINE INCIDENTS – Please also see the *Staying Safe Online Policy***

The way in which pupils and students relate to one another online can have a significant impact on the culture at school. Negative interactions online can damage the school's culture and can lead to school feeling like an unsafe place. Behaviour issues online can be very difficult to manage given issues of anonymity, and online incidents occur both on and off the premises. The school is clear that even though the online space differs in many ways, the same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline, and that everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity.

Inappropriate online behaviour including bullying, the use of inappropriate language, the soliciting and sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the same principles as offline behaviour, and the process set out in the **Safeguarding Policy** for reporting must be followed when an incident raises a safeguarding concern. The Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy must be informed immediately.

We will address with the pupil/student online behaviour online that poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil or student and/or could have repercussions for the running of / reputation of the school.

**Please also see the *Mobile & Smart Technology Policy***

## **22.0 SUSPECTED CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR**

In cases when a team member or Headteacher suspects criminal behaviour, the school will make an initial assessment of whether an incident should be reported to the police by gathering enough information to establish the facts of the case. These initial investigations will be fully documented, and every effort will be made to preserve any relevant evidence.

Once a decision is made to report the incident to police, the school will ensure any further action they take does not interfere with any police action taken. However, the school retains the discretion to continue investigations and implement their own consequences so long as it does not conflict with police action.

When making a report to the police, it will often be appropriate to make in tandem a report to the Local Authority. The setting's Safeguarding Policy must be followed, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) being informed immediately.

## **23.0 COMPLAINTS**

Any complaint or concern raised by a young person will be taken very seriously, and team members will be vigilant to obvious and subtle signs of this. A complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the Complaints Policy.



## APPENDIX 1

### Bramfield House School

At Bramfield House School the relationships between our community is key and is what makes a positive culture. We are very committed to maintaining strong relationships with the community we work with and with parents and caregivers so we can best support our pupils. It is important us that parents and caregivers are regularly consulted with regards to any concerns but also that they are aware of this policy so they can try to adopt the same approaches outside of school. This consistent approach better equips our young people to make the best choices for themselves and others.

Our school day uses the 3C'S approach. This starts when pupils enter the school at the start of the day from taxis. Pupils are greeted by staff and have breakfast (Connect). This extends into tutorial. All pupils' timetables have co-regulate. This is in the mid-point of the day (either before or after break) and gives the opportunity for the young people to regulate with an activity this could be a quiz, reading, mindfulness or a discussion. At the end of the day is circle time and this is co-reflect. During this period the class will discuss the day and reflect on the day and support next steps.

Young people are encouraged to have a voice in the school and seek staff, use class boxes, pupil meetings to discuss ideas, concerns or ways to better the school. We work hard to include pupils voices throughout the school and throughout the year so that they are heard and learn that their experience matters. This dedication we have to our relationships with our pupils therefore creates a safe and calm space. In turn this enables our young people to thrive, provide regular feedback on such policies and approaches and seek support.

Our young people who present with Complex Trauma have often been exposed to abusive or neglectful early environments. This can lead to them having experienced a lack of boundaries in their lives, navigating their way in the world in an overly independent way, which as a child, can negatively impact on how they relate to themselves, others and the world. Often any boundaries that were present will have been inconsistent. This means our young people may not have learnt consistent and predictable responses to the way they think, feel or behave. This can be part of the reason why young people appear to make unsafe decisions and why they can present with behaviour that can put themselves and/or others at risk. Helping the young people we live and learn with understand the link between cause and effect regarding their emotions and behaviours in a neuroaffirming, TIP informed way, creates opportunities for them to learn and grow, in aim of reducing risk taking behaviours.

We recognise the importance of communication and use of trauma informed practice. The way we deliver a message and engage with our young people is person centred and tailored to support the individual's needs.



Due to the complex histories and presentations of our young people, they can appear very sensitive to any sense of criticism, as it can trigger shame and be misinterpreted as rejection and/or danger. Therefore, we need to ensure that helping our young people learn effective and safe responses is supported in a trauma informed way for each young person. Consistent use of what we call logical and/or natural consequences are trauma informed ways of supporting our young people learn cause and effect. All young people need to be collaboratively supported in this way help them reduce the risk of future anti-social or inappropriate and risky behaviour.

It is important to note that consequences (could you explain what you mean by consequences) should be delivered with a high level of nurture, empathy and relationship repair. The young person should be supported to develop their self-esteem and overall resilience. This approach will support the young person to learn that their behaviour is not acceptable, with detailed collaborative supportive discussions around why this is the case, whilst remaining neuroaffirming and TIP informed. To have these conversations with such an emphasis on lack of judgement, compassion and collaboration should hopefully reduce the possible effect of reinforcing any possibly negative beliefs they may have about themselves e.g. "I am bad".

At Bramfield House school we use a database system called sleuth to record and monitor behaviour. Incidents are recorded by staff members and are on an electronic system. Staff will log communication, concerns, positive and negative incidents.

Higher level incidents will be recorded as a negative incident and a stage 3 incident. A stage 3 incident is where we are seeing **Aggression to others, high risk behaviour, direct or indirect comments around / to others of a discriminatory, prejudicial nature involving protected characteristics.**

As stated above communication is key when supporting young people to understand and process. Below is a staged script that staff will use to communicate with young people when managing behaviours or supporting young people.

## **Stage 1 - VERBAL INSTRUCTION – Communication is key, think about tone and highlight the behaviour you wish to see, giving options.**

### **Examples:**

- Off task
- Calling out
- Low level disruption
- Minor disagreement

### **Staff Response**

- Calmly highlight the desired behaviour
- Allow time to process and for the young person to respond to your request



- Maintain a calm empathetic tone
- Provide alternatives
- Name the behaviour in a non-threatening way
- Use a side on stance
- Calm verbal reminder
- Allow processing time
- Positive language
- Offer choice
- Praise compliance



### **Young person responds positively?**

YES → Return to learning / task

NO → Stage 2

**Stage 2- DIRECT INSTRUCTION- Give the young person an instruction, explain what you require them to do and encourage them to make positive choices.**

### **Examples:**

- Continuing disruption
- Refusal
- Swearing (not directed)
- Walking away

### **Staff Response:**

- Clear direct instruction
- Explain expectations
- Regulation strategy
- Five-minute thinking time
- Seat move
- Fiddle toy
- Walk with trusted adult
- Emotional check-in



### **Behaviour improves?**

YES → Praise and return to learning

NO → Stage 3

**Stage 3- The young person requires staff intervention. This is a higher level of behaviour.**



**Young person/s require an intervention.**

**Aggression to others, high risk behaviour, direct or indirect comments around / to others of a discriminatory, prejudicial nature involving protected characteristics.**

### **Examples:**

- Directed swearing
- Aggression
- Damage
- Bullying
- Threats
- Assault
- Serious aggression
- Hate incident
- Repeated discriminatory behaviour

### **Staff Response**

- Ensure safety
- Safeguarding considered
- Learning Mentor, Lead Learning mentor, Middle Leader or Senior Leadership support
- Parent informed
- Restorative conversation
- Reflection
- Repair activity
- Behaviour recorded on sleuth
- Risk assessment / PBS plan reviewed
- PDS



### **Decision Point**

#### **Did the incident include:**

- Racism?
- Homophobia?
- Sexism?
- Disability discrimination?
- Religious discrimination?
- Protected characteristics?



YES → Equality Pathway

NO → Continue Behaviour Support

## **Equality & Inclusion Educational Pathway Begins:**

### **This is how we will support in the event of a stage 3 (higher end incident)**

#### **Step 1 – Reflect**

Young person completes a conversation based on the following and the recorded-on sleuth as a PDS or follow up discussion on incident:

- What happened?
- What did I say or do?
- Who was affected?
- How might they feel?
- What could I do differently?

#### **Step 2 – Restore**

Where appropriate complete the below: This will be recorded to the incident on sleuth.

- Restorative meeting
- Repair relationship
- Staff mediation
- Victim voice

#### **Step 3 – Educate -**

Age-appropriate lesson / discussion (PDS) / Interventions on: If 3 or more higher end stage 3 incidents this is where

- Protected Characteristics
- Equality Act
- Respect
- Diversity
- Identity
- Empathy
- British Values

#### **Step 4 – Repair**



- Young person demonstrates learning by:
- Community contribution
- No further incidents
- Kindness recognised
- Peer mentoring

## Step 5 – Recognition

- Successful completion could result in:
- AQA Certificate
- Positive phone call home
- Recognition in assembly
- DOJO Points
- Praise
- Positive incident on sleuth

**For more than 3 incidents of stage 3 (higher level behaviour - Aggression to others, high risk behaviour, discriminatory, prejudicial /protected characteristics) the individual will complete a series of interventions / lessons linked with AQA unit awards / POL-Ed educational program / Hamish and Milo interventions over a series of weeks to support the understanding. The team will link with the clinical team to look at other ways to support the young people also.**

## Table of Response

To ensure repeated high-end behaviour is addressed consistently, the following graduated response will apply:

### Number of High- End Stage 3 Incidents

### Response

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 incident</b>                                | Stage 3 consequences applied in accordance with the Fair Play Scheme – PDS/ conversation alongside restorative work where appropriate                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2 incidents</b>                               | Stage 3 consequences applied, with a review meeting involving relevant staff and consideration of additional support or intervention. In addition to the Stage 3 consequences, the pupil will be required to complete <b>a series of interventions. This will be through a range of resources (Hamish + Milo, Pol-Ed educational programme, AQA Units).</b> |
| <b>3 or more incidents of the same behaviour</b> | An example would be focusing on respectful relationships, equality, protected characteristics, and the impact of harmful behaviour. Completion of the programme will be monitored by staff and discussed.                                                                                                                                                   |



The purpose of the intervention programme is to provide targeted education, promote understanding, and support positive behaviour changes while reinforcing the school's expectations regarding respect, inclusion, and safety for all members of the school community.

**For continued / on-going incidents the Headteacher could refer / implement the suspension policy depending on the nature of the event and taking into consideration the individual.**

Below is an example of how staff will communicate with young people at different stages:

### **Stage 1 - VERBAL INSTRUCTION**

Connect, Co- regulate, Co-reflect

**"I can see that..... (You're struggling to listen to others)"**

**"I wonder if..... (You're finding the subject difficult to talk about)"**

**"I have noticed that..... (You're talking over the top of other boys)"**

**"Would you like help with... (Getting your point across)"**

### **Stage 2- DIRECT INSTRUCTION**

Connect, Co- regulate, Co-reflect

**"You are continuing to (tap on the desk and frustrate your partner)"**

**"I would like you to (Stop doing that because it's distracting for other classmates)"**

**"Please can you (put you pen down and look at the teacher)"**

**"This is the second time I have spoken to you about...."**

### **Stage 3- Young person to take time away from activity or outside the classroom -use additional space.**

Connect, Co- regulate, Co-reflect

**"You have been given an opportunity but you have failed to stop..... (Shouting out)"**

**"Can we go and reflect on what's going for you"**

## **RE CONNECT**

### **Stage 4 – RETURN REPAIR RESTORE**

**Time to regulate away from incident and area**

**Reflect**

**Discussion / Apology / Letter**

**Reparation**

**PDS /Intervention**

**Go back in the classroom / activity if settled and repaired**



Our young people will make mistakes and do require educating around topical subjects, however, below are non-negotiables that will result in a fast-track stage 3 event.

**Aggression directed, Comments regarding prejudicial, discriminatory protected characteristics / high-risk behaviour.**

The staff will address any stage 3 incident and use a vast number of tools to support the individual depending on the incident. Examples could include:

A restorative conversation with staff / young person/s, at the time or during a break/lunchtime. Conversations during a choice time if risks are presenting. Use of additional space if not classroom ready (for example, library, office or quiet space).

If we see a number of higher end incidents (3 or more) this will result in Middle leaders and the Senior Leadership team discussing and looking at activities / trips and what can be accessed due to the risks that are presenting. Risk assessments will be taken into consideration.

If we are seeing ongoing behaviours, then we may use a change of environment to support as this may highlight that the individual is not classroom ready and requires a greater level of support. This may include working in the pastoral office, library, spare classroom and being on a person-centred timetable. Staff will support and then reintegrate young people back into the classroom. Behaviour will be monitored during this time.

Stage 3 events will be monitored. Learning Mentors from the class and Lead Learning Mentors from the area of the school (Ibstock, Primary, Middle and Upper) monitoring the number received. Further quality assurance will happen from Lead Learning Mentors, Behaviour Lead and SLT.

Staff should always consider the progress made with the individual. Whilst we recognise that we are supporting the young people with decision making and cause and effect, the Fair Play scheme should recognise positive steps and progress made by every individual.

Staff will monitor incidents and apply our child-on-child tiered system if we are seeing repeated on-going behaviours directed towards the same individual.



### **CHILD ON CHILD**

Our strategies to tackling incident when they arise – prejudicial, discriminatory and child-on-child: -

#### **TIER 1 – ONE OFF INCIDENT – STAGE 1**

Verbal warning given by staff – This is the staff managing and dealing with the incident at the time. The incident will be recorded on Sleuth, and a restorative conversation will take place. Phone calls to parents of young people involved.

#### **TIER 2 – SECOND INCIDENT DIRECTED AT ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON (SAME PERSON) STAGE 2**

PDS carried out by Learning Mentor / Teacher around the behaviour displayed and appropriate behaviour required from the young person. Phone call home to parent/carer of young people involved. Support/intervention for the victim and call home also.

#### **TIER 3 – THIS INCIDENT DIRECTED AT ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON (SAME PERSON) STAGE 3 – THIS NOW CONSTITUTES BULLYING:**

Meeting with Learning Mentor for class, Learning Mentor Lead and Behaviour Lead with the parent or carer, followed by a proactive intervention and restorative conversation / activity with the victim.

#### **TIER 4 – CONSISTENT INCIDENTS DIRECTED AT ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON (SAME PERSON) STAGE 4**

Meeting with Learning Mentor for class, Lead Learning Mentor, Behaviour Lead, Assistant Headteacher with the parent/carer, followed by a proactive intervention and restorative conversation with the victim.

#### **TIER 5 – PROLONGED AND REGULAR INCIDENTS TOWARDS ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON (SAME PERSON) STAGE 5 - Meeting with the Behaviour Lead, Assistant Headteacher and the Head of School with the parent or carer, followed by a proactive intervention and restorative conversation with the victim.**

In the perpetrator continues to target students with child-on-child type abuse the Headteacher may be forced to implement the suspension policy.



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