



Behaviour Policy

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Review Date	Changes made	By whom
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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- > Create a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment where everyone will be inspired to do their very best.
- > To promote a school culture and environment that reflects our positive attitudes, values and beliefs with respect for the child at the centre.
- > To provide guidance to class teams, parents and carers, members of the Local Academy Council and other stakeholders on how we support our pupils to self-regulate, manage their behavioural responses and help them feel safe so they are able and ready to learn.
- > To provide a framework for our collective beliefs, understanding and insight into behaviour as it relates to learners with complex learning needs at The Bridge School.
- > Establish a whole-school approach to maintaining high standards of behaviour that reflect the values of the school that is applied to all pupils with understanding that being consistent and fair is not about everyone getting the same (equality), but everyone getting what they need (equity).

2. Key Beliefs / Rationale

At The Bridge School we want our Behaviour Policy to reflect our insight and understanding of the complex needs of our pupils and how this contributes to their ability to self-regulate and manage their behaviour in a positive manner so they can be ready to engage with learning. We call this behaviour for learning. We aim for a holistic, whole-person approach to make sure we are reflecting and planning for the needs of all our learners with complex layered needs. All of our pupils have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and additional needs can include Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) or Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD) plus: Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC), physical and sensory needs, social, emotional and mental health needs, medical needs and communication needs. All pupils who attend The Bridge School have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Our policy is written to ensure that all pupils, staff and visitors feel safe, valued and cared for and enjoy a sense of belonging and we actively seek to promote and maintain a positive ethos for all pupils. Due to the complex nature of their learning difficulties, many of our pupils need significant support in the development of appropriate personal and social behaviours. This learning is an integral part of the school's curriculum that needs to be taught and learned throughout life.

We clearly recognise that it is the specific behaviour that challenges and not the person themself. We take a positive approach, viewing inappropriate behaviours or behaviours that challenge as forms of communication and we understand that behaviour communicates a need for support.

We believe that behaviours that challenge always happen for a reason and consideration is given that this might be the only way a learner can communicate. It can arise for different reasons which are personal to the individual child. Pupils who display, or are at risk of displaying behaviours that challenge are in need of our support.

3. Legislation, statutory requirements and statutory guidance

This policy is based on legislation and advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- **>** Behaviour and discipline in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff, 2016
- > Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff 2022
- > Searching, screening and confiscation at school 2018
- > Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022
- > The Equality Act 2010
- > Keeping Children Safe in Education
- > Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England 2017
- ➤ <u>Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral</u> units in England, including pupil movement 2022
- > Use of reasonable force in schools
- > <u>Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school Special Educational Needs and Disability</u> (SEND) Code of Practice

<u>DfE guidance</u> also explains that academies should publish their behaviour policy and anti-bullying strategy.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Definitions

The term 'behaviours that challenge' has been used to refer to behaviours which may be shown by children that cause concern.

CPOMS is the Child Protection Online Monitoring System used by school to record incidents.

At The Bridge School we believe that:

- Behaviour is a means of communication we must ensure that pupils are supported to communicate their needs safely and appropriately using their preferred communication systems.
- With the right support and intervention pupils can self-regulate and manage their own behaviour.
- Mistakes are part of the learning process and we recognise that our pupils are at different stages of development.
- Teachers and class teams must be given the opportunity to learn, understand and have
 insight into why some pupils become dysregulated, and reflect on how/why it impacts on
 their behaviour. To work collectively with our pupils, their parents/carers and other
 professionals to develop strategies as part of a positive behaviour support plan to support
 them to self-regulate and manage their behaviour in a positive manner.
- Our pupils have learning difficulties and other additional complex needs which need to be considered when managing behaviour.

As a school we take a universal and targeted approach to the management of behaviours that challenge. We aim to work collaboratively and in partnership throughout with parents/carers and other professionals as appropriate.

Universal	Targeted
Ensure behaviours of concern are shared within admissions and	In school behaviour analysis
transition meetings allowing staff to gain an understanding of	approach to try to further identify
different known behaviours, possible triggers and regulating	triggers, patterns and key strategies
strategies.	that support the pupils.
Ensure that the environment and curriculum is best matched to pupils	Once established this can then be
needs, with considerations made to individuals needs e.g. a pupil with	implements into pupil daily plans.
a hearing or visual impairment may need to be positioned differently	Refer to specialist support from
in the room.	outside agencies e.g. occupational
Quality first teaching.	therapists, behaviour support
Staff to be trained in understanding condition such as autism.	services or Forward Thinking
Short, planned movement breaks for pupils who find it difficult to sit	Birmingham.
for too long.	Ongoing liaison with external
Adaptations to the uniform for pupils with sensory issues or medical	agencies and parents to plan support
conditions.	programmes and strategies for
Use of break out spaces, such as sensory room, soft play, field, tent,	individuals and review these on a
where pupils can regulate their emotions during a moment of sensory	regular basis.
overload.	
Equipment is in place for pupils who require e.g. specialist seating	
arrangements.	

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The Local Academy Council

The Local Academy Council is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

5.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- > Reviewing this policy in conjunction with the Local Academy Council.
- > Ensuring that the school environment encourages positive behaviour.
- > Ensuring that staff deal effectively with behaviour that challenges.
- > Monitoring how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently to pupils whilst considering pupils' individual needs.
- > Ensuring that all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them.
- > Ensuring new staff have a clear induction into the school's behavioural culture and how best to support all pupils to participate fully.
- > Ensuring appropriate training in behaviour management and the impact of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and mental health needs on behaviour, to any staff who require it, so they can fulfil their duties set out in this policy.
- > Ensuring this policy works alongside the Safeguarding Policy to offer pupils both sanctions and support when necessary.
- > Ensuring that the data from the behaviour monitoring system is reviewed regularly, to make sure that no groups of pupils are being disproportionately impacted by this policy (see section 14.1)

5.3 Teachers and Class Staff

Class teams and support staff can support our pupils by:

- > Creating a happy, secure and appropriate learning environment where pupils will be inspired to do their very best, actively and positively promoting self-advocacy, mutual respect and dignity.
- > Engaging with all training related to behaviour, actively seeking further support if required.
- > Setting a good example to pupils, modelling expected behaviour and forming positive relationships.
- > Ensuring pupils are supported by appropriate communication aids, seeking further support as needed to enable them to do this from staff within school and visiting professionals.
- > Implementing the behaviour policy consistently, communicating expectations and values and maintaining clear boundaries when interacting with pupils.
- > Providing a personalised approach to the specific learning and behavioural needs of pupils, including putting in place Risk Reduction Plans/Restraint Risk Reduction Plans and periods of behavioural analysis for pupils who require them.
- > Recording behaviour incidents promptly.
- > Reporting instances of restrictive physical intervention promptly to senior leaders.
- > Reflecting with parents/carers and other professionals so we are well-informed and have insight and understanding of individual needs.
- > Ensuring our interventions are personalised, well informed and planned according to the needs of the child within the context of their class.

The senior leadership team (SLT) will provide advice, guidance and support to staff in responding to behaviour incidents by observing pupils, modelling strategies, leading class debriefs and working together to find solutions which may include involving other professionals. SLT can also assist in recording, developing risk reduction plans, liaising with parents and outside professionals when required.

5.4 Parents and carers

We aim to work in partnership with parents to ensure consistency in approaches between home and school to support pupils to develop positive behaviours for learning.

Parents and carers, where possible, should:

- > Inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour.
- > Discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly.
- > Engage in any pastoral work to support their child's behaviour (for example: attending reviews of specific behaviour interventions)
- > Raise any concerns about the management of behaviour with the school directly, whilst continuing to work in partnership with the school.

5.5 Pupils

Pupils will where possible:

- > Know what is expected of them in terms of behaviour (where possible), in their own classrooms, around school and when they are on school visits.
- > Develop awareness of the consequences of their behaviour.
- > Try to explain what causes their behaviour to escalate and what helps them to remain calm.
- > Treat others with respect and dignity and look after their environment.

5.6. External Agencies

At The Bridge school we are committed to understanding and responding to the needs of all pupils. We aim to work collaboratively with a range of external agencies to support pupil behaviour. These may include: behaviour support professionals, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Forward Thinking Birmingham (NHS child mental health), Special School Nursing.

6. School behaviour curriculum

We believe that positive behaviour must be learned and in supporting their learning process, pupils can expect:

- Access to an environment that meets their sensory and physical needs and allows them to communicate effectively throughout the day.
- Safe and familiar routines within the classroom and wider school environment.
- Age and stage appropriate teaching through PSHE and RSE, linked to pupil's pathways.
- Clear and progressive rules for appropriate behaviour that are taught explicitly throughout their school life linked to their developmental needs.
- To be taught strategies to self-regulate and communicate their needs.
- Explicit teaching of social skills and emotional awareness and its link to mental health and wellbeing.
- To be taught about safe and appropriate behaviour outside of the school community.
- Intervention and support where needed.

Where appropriate and reasonable, adjustments may be made to ensure all pupils can meet behavioural expectations in the curriculum. This approach ensures that preventative approaches and early intervention is the norm.

7. Mobile phones

Pupils are not allowed mobile phones on site.

Some pupils travel on home school transport with electronic devices such as tablets.

If a pupil brings a mobile phone or tablet device into school, this is locked away by class staff for the duration of the day. Where this is not a pre-arranged strategy parents are contacted to discuss this further. Devices will be placed in the pupil's bag at the end of the school day and staff then hand the pupil over to parents/carers or transport guides. (Due to their age and nature of their additional needs, all of our pupils are handed over to parents/carers or transport guides in this way at the end of the school day.)

8. Responding to behaviour

8.1 Classroom management

We recognise the importance of creating learning environments that support our pupils to make positive behaviour choices.

Enabling environments and approaches

Organising the classroom for effective communication and behaviour

This includes classes:

- Arranged in line with the needs of the pupils within the room.
- Neat, tidy and free from unnecessary clutter.
- Have clear routines
- Organised so that there are areas linked to class needs such as e.g. workspaces (individual/grouped/low arousal as needed), movement areas, quiet spaces and creative areas and planned seating arrangements to support the needs of the pupils.
- Communication rich with appropriate aids and strategies e.g. visual timetables, task boards (e.g. now/next, sequencing strips, rule reminders), symbols/photographs, objects of reference, Aided Language Displays and communication books/folders.

Other spaces around the school are also used such as the hall, corridor spaces and outdoor areas for sensory circuits and movement breaks and our therapeutic soft play room and sensory rooms.

Pupil Communication

How pupils behave can give us important information about how they are feeling. Our pupils have a wide range of different communication styles and many are pre- or non- verbal or at the early stages of verbal communication using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems to communicate their needs. Supporting our pupils to communicate effectively is an important way to help them to self-regulate and behave in a positive manner.

Communication whether by eye movement, gesture, symbol, sign or verbal speech is vital to our pupils' learning, wellbeing and mental health, independence and self-esteem. We also know that our pupils can communicate certain needs through their behaviour. Therefore, we seek to offer the following support as appropriate:

- Total communication environments with strategies appropriate to pupil's individual needs
- Concise instructions minimising language and allowing for processing time.
- Portable visual strategies to support spoken language where possible.
- Clear routines.
- Preparation for changes and transitions.
- Visuals a visual symbol, photo, object or picture is permanent whereas spoken word disappear. Visuals allow time for language processing and prepare pupils for transitions. Visuals are transferrable e.g. between home and school. They can help reduce anxiety which impacts on self-regulation and positive behaviour.

Sensory Processing

Sensory processing difficulties can impact on the ability of our pupils to self-regulate and manage their own behaviour. To help with this, we work with outside professionals to identify and support pupils with sensory regulation which may include:

- An Occupational Therapist to help identify individual or group sensory needs, create plans e.g. sensory movement breaks and circuits or provides higher level targeted advice for some pupils and advice on specific pieces of equipment.
- Sensory diets.
- Use of equipment to support sensory regulation e.g. therapeutic swings.
- Training for staff.
- Access to different areas e.g. sensory rooms, therapeutic soft play, tents and outside areas.

Physical Touch

We believe that appropriate positive physical touch can be used to build connection, support regulation and reinforce positive behaviour choices. Strategies may include high fives, handshakes, elbow bumps, deep pressure massage and help hugs (deep pressure applied through the cupping of hands and whole hand pressure).

8.2 Safeguarding

The school recognises that changes in behaviour can be an indicator that a pupil needs help or protection. Where this may be the case, we will follow our child protection and safeguarding policy and consider whether pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information.

8.3 Responding to good behaviour

Reinforcing appropriate behaviour is an essential component in the learning process and enables the development of skills in all areas of a pupil's life. Rewards are tangible and are designed to encourage and promote positive behaviour. To this end, it is important that class staff work hard to identify what really motivates pupils and what is likely to support this approach. We believe that it's important to recognise achievements big and small including following instructions, social skills, basic life skills, communication and effort put in as well as academic milestones and staff may celebrate achievements in a range of ways:

- Verbally with words, signs or symbols of affirmation and praise.
- High fives or handshakes.
- Token rewards such as stickers.

- Personalised motivators such as time with a favorite toy or activity.
- Communicating praise to parents via a phone call or written correspondence.
- Certificates, prize ceremonies or special assemblies.
- Visiting SLT (or other favored adults) to share their success.
- Special Events.

8.4 Responding to behaviour that challenges

We recognise that it's important to develop awareness of consequences of behaviours; this is an integral part of teaching and learning. Most pupils will respond positively to class teams working within the above guidelines to support them to self-regulate, be calm and manage their behaviour in a positive manner.

Where the level of behaviour that challenges is more concerning e.g. where the behaviour of a pupil becomes dangerous to themselves or others, or where their behaviour repeatedly disrupts their own learning or that of their peers, a Risk Reduction Plan or Restraint Risk Reduction Plan is required. All staff members working with the pupil, along with the pupil where possible and their family should be involved in the writing of the plan. Where necessary we also seek to include other professionals so that it is a collaborative and holistic plan. This plan identifies the triggers for the behaviour and effective management strategies. A program of intervention is then devised and shared by staff and reviewed/adjusted on a regular basis.

Self-injurious behaviour is when a pupil physically harms themselves. It is sometimes called self-harm. When this happens staff should work collaboratively with the pupil, their parents or carers and other professionals to try to understand the function of this behaviour and try to find ways to prevent or replace this behaviour. Pupils may have individualised plans with strategies outlined to support, which may include:

- quick and consistent responses when a pupil self-injures
- keeping verbal responses low key
- reducing demands placed on the pupil
- consideration of sensory processing needs
- using a protective barrier (e.g. use of mats, cushions, a chewy)
- Redirection and distraction.

Reparation and restorative practice

Reparation means repairing relationships, or 'making good' in some way.

We believe that our pupils should be given the opportunity to repair, and find that they want to do this. Reparation after an incident practices and encourages important interpersonal skills including the expression of feelings, how to resolve conflict and aims to focus on what has been done and not on the pupil themself. Where developmentally appropriate, we aim to support pupils to take responsibility for what they have done and to repair it with the other person/s involved/affected.

9. Child on Child incidents

9.1 Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- > Deliberately hurtful
- > Repeated, often over a period of time
- > Difficult to defend against

We do not tolerate bullying, and we acknowledge that some of our pupils may not understand how their behaviour impacts on others or be experienced as bullying.

Bullying should never be ignored and every instance needs to be addressed.

Pupils need to be supported to develop age-appropriate levels of e-literacy so that they can keep themselves safe online and be able to report cyber-bullying. We also accept that for many of our pupils by virtue of their complex additional needs, their protection against cyber-bullying relies on adult supervision when online.

9.2 Child on child physical or sexual abuse

Child on child incidents can fit into many contexts, many of which are outlined above in the context of bullying. We acknowledge that some of our pupils may not understand how their behaviour impacts on others. Some pupils may not yet have developed an awareness of appropriate touch or may exhibit physical behaviours which hurt others as a means of trying to build friendships or communications. These incidents are not accepted and pupils who exhibit these behaviours may require further individualised support above and beyond what is taught through our school rules, PSHE and wider curriculum.

Regular staff training with both a safeguarding and behavioural perspective supports staff to quickly identify, record and report these incidents so that effective strategies can be put in place.

10. Care and control of pupils and restrictive physical intervention

There are certain situations in which, after exhausting all other alternatives, restrictive physical intervention may become necessary to manage behaviour. This will only take place in line with the Care and Control Policy adopted by the school. All physical interventions are recorded by the individual member of staff in the incident log (bound book) and on CPOMs. The Incident Logbook is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and by the Trust.

At times, we will need to use physical touch or restrictive physical intervention (restraint) to reduce risk and keep children and adults safe (please refer to Care and Control Policy for additional information). The Education and Inspections Act 2006 states.

"Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, from causing disorder, or committing an offence."

The decision on whether to physically intervene and/or restrain is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances relating to an incident.

When considering using reasonable force, staff should, in considering the risks, carefully recognise any specific vulnerabilities of the pupil, including SEND, mental health needs or medical conditions. Incidents of restrictive physical intervention must:

- Always be used as a last resort.
- Be applied using the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time possible.
- Be used in a way that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Never be used as a form of punishment.
- Be recorded on CPOMs and in the Team Teach Bound and Numbered Book and reported to parents.

Before using restrictive physical intervention, staff should be confident that the possible adverse outcomes associated with the intervention will be less severe than the adverse consequences which might have occurred without the use of physical intervention. Very occasionally a child or a member of staff will be injured during a restrictive physical intervention. The injured person will be seen by a trained first aider and treatment recorded. They may be advised to seek medical advice or sent for medical treatment at a hospital if required (in the case of an injury to a child advice will be via their parents/carers). The Trust will be informed in the event of a child or adult being injured and the school will adhere to follow-up procedures. All staff who have been involved in physical control are offered a verbal debrief by their immediate colleagues as soon as possible after the incident. They can also seek a further debrief from any of the senior leaders on duty. All staff can also seek longer term support from Forward Education Trust procured services.

11. Confiscation, searches, screening

Searching, screening and confiscation is conducted in line with the DfE's <u>latest guidance on</u> <u>searching, screening and confiscation</u> and is carried out by one member of staff and witnessed by another.

Confiscation

Any prohibited items (listed in section 3 of the DfE advice above) found in a pupil's possession because of a search will be confiscated. These items will not be returned to the pupil. We will also confiscate any item that is harmful or detrimental to school discipline. These items will be returned to pupils after discussion with senior leaders and parents, if appropriate.

12. Serious sanctions and consequences

The Bridge School recognises that the appropriate use of consequences in conjunction with rewards has an important role to play in encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour. When considering consequences, this is only to be used when pupils understand the relationship between the consequence and inappropriate behaviour(s) displayed and where the consequence is consistently effective in reducing the inappropriate behaviour.

12.2 Suspension and permanent exclusions

The school can use suspension and permanent exclusion in response to serious incidents or in response to persistent poor behaviour, which has not improved following in-school sanctions and interventions.

The decision to suspend or exclude will be made by the headteacher and only as a last resort. Please refer to Forward Education Trust's exclusions and suspension policy for more information.

It may be considered that the school can no longer meet the child's needs and a change of Education Health and Care Plan and if necessary a change of school placement, in discussion with the issuing Local Authority may need to happen.

13. Pupil transition

13.1 Welcoming incoming pupils

The school will support incoming pupils to understand behavioural expectations by offering a transition process to familiarise them with the wider school culture. Pupils will receive a preadmissions photo pack and social story about the school and be invited to look around the school with parents. Children and their families will be invited to an admission meeting which will include discussions about behaviours both positive and any that could be a concern, allowing staff to gain an understanding of different known behaviours, possible triggers and regulating strategies. Pupils will have individualised transition plans which are reviewed daily by class staff building up to full time provision. During initial time in school pupils will be exposed to communication (this could be in the form of pictures, symbols, signs or spoken language) which shares behaviour expectations of the class and wider school. This will continue to evolve and develop as pupils move through the school and their needs change.

11.2 Preparing outgoing pupils for transition

To ensure a smooth transition and to ensure the right support is in place, staff members hold transition meetings prior to class changes happening. Transition is planned and supported through multifaceted approaches and pupils have transition sessions with their new staff.

When pupils leave our setting, information related to pupil behaviour may also be shared with destination settings which is usually the ongoing secondary school.

14. Monitoring arrangements

14.1. Monitoring and evaluating school behaviour

The school will collect and analyse data to continue to improve provision for pupils within our school. This may include data on; behavioural incidents; attendance, permanent exclusion and

suspension; incidents of searching, screening and confiscation; and views of stakeholders on their perceptions and experiences of the school behaviour culture.

14.2 Links with other policies

This behaviour policy is linked to the following policies:

Trust exclusions and suspension policy Child protection and safeguarding policy Care and Control Policy Searching, Screening and Confiscation (Advice for Schools) DfE Trust Anti Bullying strategy



The Bridge School Behaviour Analysis Form

Full Name: Start Date:	Class: Review date:
	orking well and what needs to be put in place on and happy environment/clean and tidy/clearly
Background information (relevant medica relevant information)	l details, communication ability and system, other
Behaviours that challenge (anything that tin some form)	the child does that requires adult support or intervention
Possible triggers. What can be done to red	duce these or increase the child's ability to tolerate them?
Possible purpose of the pupil's behaviour us?	. What do you think the child is communicating/telling

Factors which maintain / escalate behaviour	Occasions when it is less likely to occur
Strategies tried that work (incl. advice)	Etratogies tried that do not work
Strategies tried that work (mei. davice)	Strategies tried that do not work
Strategies tried triat work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work
Strategies trica triat work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work
Strategres trica that work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work
Strategres trica that work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work
Strategres trica that work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work
Strategres trica that work (mer. davice)	Strategies tried triat do not work

Evaluation

Appendix 2: Restraint Risk Reduction Plan (Risk Reduction plans have the same format but do not have the preferred holds section completed due to these not being required).



Restraint Risk Reduction Plan

For:	Date:	
MEDICAL CONDITIONS: (Medical conditions that shou	ld be taken into account before physically intervening)	
TRIGGER BEHAVIOURS: (Describe common behaviou required. When is such behav	rs/situations which are known to have led to Positive Handling beir iour likely to occur?)	ายู
TOPOGRAPHY OF BEHAVIOU (Describe what the behaviour		

PREFERRED SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTIONS

Verbal advice/support	Distraction (known words/likes)
Reassurance	Take up time
C.A.L.M talking/stance	Withdrawal
Negotiation	Cool off: directed/offered
Choices/limits	Contingent touch
Humour	Transfer adult (help protocol)

Consequences	Success reminder	
Planned ignoring	Traffic lights	

]	
Others	?			
	RRED HANDLING STRAT be the preferred holds)			
DE-BRI	EFING PROCESS:			
Signed Parent	: /Guardian/Carer		 	
Signed	(key staff):		 	