

GATEHOUSE SCHOOL

NURSERY CLASS

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Rationale

It is widely accepted that children learn best in a safe, secure environment. Our Health and Safety Policy, Risk Assessment Policy and Child Protection Policy have been put in place to address safety issues. However, if we are also concerned with children's emotional and social development and wish to encourage positive attitudes to self and others it is necessary to have rules for acceptable behaviour. This policy has been written for staff and parents in order that they may have a shared understanding of expectations and responsibilities with regard to acceptable standards of behaviour. It is also hoped that it will encourage consistency of approach in dealing with the behaviours demonstrated by children so that they will experience the security which results from knowing that there are boundaries which are the same for everyone.

Aims

The policy aims to ensure that through the establishment of reasonable rules for behaviour, acknowledging and praising good behaviour and consistent, fair and acceptable methods of dealing with problems that children will benefit from learning in an atmosphere of tolerance of and respect for all.

Objectives

To establish clear rules which do not impose unreasonable demands on children.

To ensure that staff and parents have a common understanding of expectations regarding acceptable behaviour.

To give guidance to staff on the implementation of the rules.

To ensure that parents have a clear understanding of how we implement the rules.

To give clear guidance to staff with regard to discipline.

To ensure that parents are aware of the disciplinary measures employed in the nursery and the reason for these.

Rules

The rules throughout the school are positive and few in number, setting an expectation that children will be well behaved rather than that we expect to have to deal with people who are naughty. Every opportunity is taken to praise good behaviour and on the rare occasions that children have to be reprimanded there is an understanding that everyone gets the chance to start afresh. We believe that keeping a catalogue of bad behaviour is counter-productive in that it implies an expectation of failure on behalf of the child. The two rules in the Primary department are:

Be Careful.

Be Considerate

While we may not use the exact wording in Nursery, we will be encouraging care of self and respect for others and their property.

- **children will be encouraged to use equipment carefully and to learn to share with others and take turns.**
- **they will be asked to help with tidying up and to make sure that all the parts of games and toys have been put away**
- **they will learn to listen to others and to allow everyone to express their wishes**
- **they will learn that they are allowed to express their wishes in a reasonable manner**
- **they will be asked to keep noise to an acceptable level**
- **they will be asked to move around the Nursery in a manner which will not endanger their own safety or the safety of others**

Learning to Obey the Rules

Children will learn to obey the rules by

- **having good role models in the staff who will show good manners, consideration and respect in dealing with the children.**
- **being treated sensitively by staff who are trained to understand the problems children experience.**
- **being helped to develop a good self image.**
- **being helped to acquire self discipline appropriate to their age and stage of development.**
- **having good behaviour acknowledged and praised.**

Dealing With Problems

There is always a reason for young children displaying behaviour which is considered unacceptable and the first duty of staff in dealing with such behaviour is to establish the cause e.g.

The child may:

- **feel unwell**
- **be tired**
- **be afraid of something**
- **have had an upsetting experience prior to coming to Nursery**
- **be worried about something**
- **be bored due to inappropriate provision**

Responsibilities of Parents

- **To inform the staff of anything which they know that children are frightened of or about anything which might have upset the child or be causing him/her to be worried**
- **To ensure that children do not attend Nursery if they are unduly tired for any reason**
- **To ensure that children do not attend Nursery if they are known to be unwell**
- **To ensure that staff have a contact number for the parent or someone else in the event that the parent can not be contacted.**
- **To work with staff to resolve behaviour problems**

Responsibilities of Staff

- **To ensure that they are available at the beginning and end of each session to discuss problems with parents**
- **To keep parents informed of any behaviour displayed by their child which is considered inappropriate or unacceptable**
- **To report to parents any problem and give them information on how the matter was dealt with**
- **To work with parents to resolve behaviour problems**
- **To ensure that the provision is appropriate to the needs of the child**
- **To treat children displaying inappropriate behaviour fairly and sensitively having taken account of all the reasons which may be causing it.**
- **To respect the parents' right to privacy when discussing their child/ren**

Discipline

The Nursery staff will use their experience and expertise to avoid situations where children require to be disciplined. In the event that such a situation does arise, however, disciplinary measures will take the form of :

- **giving the child a firm warning about his/her behaviour**
- **telling the child firmly to stop the behaviour**
- **removing the child from the situation if necessary**

No form of corporal punishment will ever be used in the Nursery nor will any actions or language likely to humiliate or embarrass the child be used.

The main aim will be to resolve difficulties and to integrate children as quickly as possible following any incident. It is not envisaged that there will be any major difficulties. However, in the event that a child's behaviour is considered to be likely to endanger him/herself or others it may be necessary to intervene to avoid this. If it is essential to restrain a child to avoid injury this will be done by holding the child gently but firmly without undue pressure and with no pressure against the natural movement of the joints. This measure will only be taken when it is considered to be the only way to avoid the child hurting him/herself or someone else and it will only be carried out by a member of the nursery staff known to the child. If it is felt that the child should be removed from the Nursery for a period of time then another member of staff will also be in attendance. Immediately following such an incident, the member/s of staff involved should complete a written report for the Head Teacher who will initiate the following procedure.

- **A copy of the report will be sent to the School's Education Officer**
- **A meeting will be set up between the member of staff involved and the Head Teacher.**
- **A meeting will be set up between the parent/s and the Head Teacher**
- **The Head Teacher will report to the Education Officer following these meetings.**

Gatehouse School - Report on restraint of a Pupil

Name of Pupil	D.O.B.
Address	
Date of Incident	Location
Staff Member/s Involved	Designation
Details of incident leading to restraint of the pupil	
Details of strategies used prior to restraint	
Duration of restraint	
Describe further action , if any, which was necessary to calm the pupil	
Signed	Date
Signed	Date

N.B. This form should be completed and handed to the Head Teacher as soon as possible after the incident and not later than the end of the nursery session during which the incident occurred.