



## **The Mary Bassett Lower School - Governors' Statement of Behaviour Principles** **(reviewed November 2024)**

### **Introduction**

Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires the Governing Body of The Mary Bassett Lower School to make a written statement of general principles to which the Headteacher should have regard when determining the school's Behaviour Policy.

This Statement of Behaviour Principles has been prepared by the Governing Body following consultation with the Headteacher, school staff, parents and pupils to ensure that the principles are both relevant and appropriate for the standard of behaviour expected in the school. It will be reviewed regularly to take account of any legislative or other changes that may affect its content or relevance.

The result of the consultation has been undertaken with the children. They say that for them the following are good behaviours:-

'Class should be a special and happy place'  
'Everyone should work as a team'  
'Peace and quiet and calm place'  
'A very safe space'  
'Adults help with my learning'  
'Enjoy challenging learning'  
'Keep to agreed volume level'  
'Sensible fun not silly fun'  
'Tidy up areas I use'

The governors endorse this positive attitude to behaviour.

### **Principles**

#### **Right to Feel Safe**

All pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and visitors have the right to feel safe at all times. The Governing Body expects that all members of the school community will behave responsibly and treat each other with respect.

Children have the right to be protected from inappropriate material through online programmes. We expect the school to have relevant policies and practices in place to enable children to use technology safely and appropriately. Implementation of such policies to be evidenced.

### High Standards of Behaviour

The Governing Body believes that good behaviour by parents, carers, staff, governors and visitors will enable children to maximise the learning opportunities available to them and enable those learning experiences to take place effectively.

Children have the right to learn and to achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives and staff have the right to teach. The Governing Body expects high standards of behaviour during the school day. This will have a positive effect on the lives and behaviour of children outside of school and enable them to become effective citizens.

### Inclusivity and Equality

The Mary Bassett Lower School prides itself on being an inclusive school which expects equality and valuing of the individual. The Governing Body expects that all members of the school community should be free from discrimination, harassment and bullying. Measures to counteract bullying and discrimination will be consistently applied and monitored for their effectiveness.

### The Mary Bassett Way

'The Mary Bassett Way' is a whole school expectation of good behaviour. It is the school's approach to behaviour, celebrates human values and is adopted by all children and staff and governors.

### Rewards and Sanctions

In relation to pupils, the Governing Body expects the Behaviour Policy to set out a range of clearly defined rewards and sanctions. Extensive use should be made of positive reinforcement with respect to both behaviour and achievement. Sanctions should be seen as being consistent and fair and should reflect the degree of disapproval and seriousness of the incident.

The Governing Body believes that food should not be used as a reward.

The Governing Body expects exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, to be used only as a very last resort.

### Home/School Agreement

The Governing Body believes that it is important that the school works effectively with parents and carers to achieve excellent behaviour of pupils. The school will develop a suitable way to communicate expectations so that the school and parents/carers can work in partnership to support the children in achieving consistently good behaviour, which leads to effective learning.

The relevant responsibilities of children, parents/carers and all school staff with respect to their and their children's behaviour should be outlined in such a way that it is not judgemental and encourages collaboration.

### The Use of Reasonable Force or Other Physical Contact

The Governors expect the Behaviour Policy/ Use of Reasonable Force Policy to clearly outline the circumstances where staff may use reasonable force and other physical contact. At all times the use

of force should be a last resort but governors agree it may be used in the following circumstances (see Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006):

- To prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others:
- To prevent pupils from causing damage to property:
- To prevent pupils from prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

The Governors expect that 'authorised' staff are appropriately trained in the use of reasonable force and restraint and that all staff are given training on de-escalation and behaviour management techniques.

There is a statutory duty to record and report all significant incidents including all use of force.

Where a risk has been identified an individual pupil 'Behaviour Management Plan' may specify a particular physical intervention technique for the pupil concerned.

The Governing Body believes that there are times when physical contact with a pupil is proper and necessary.

#### The Power to Discipline Beyond the School Gate

The Governing Body believes that poor behaviour of pupils or bullying of pupils, (including inappropriate behaviour of adults towards pupils), which is witnessed outside of school, will be addressed by the school. It is expected that the procedures for this will be outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy. The Governing Body believes that there should be no difference in standards of behaviour whilst children are on a school trip. Behaviour on school trips will be rewarded or sanctioned in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

#### Pastoral Care for School Staff

The Behaviour Policy must include details of how the school will respond to an allegation against a member of staff. The Governors would not expect automatic suspension of a member of staff who has been accused of misconduct, pending an investigation. The Governors would, however, expect the Headteacher to draw on and follow the advice in the 'Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff' guidance when setting out the pastoral support school staff can expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers. In addition, the Behaviour Policy should set out the disciplinary action that will be taken against children who are found to have made malicious accusations against school staff.

#### Screening and Searching Pupils

It is expected that, given the age of the pupils at The Mary Bassett School, this power will rarely, if ever, need to be used. However, the DfE expects the Governing Body to consider the circumstances in which such a power should be implemented.

The Governing Body expects that the Headteacher should clearly set out in the school rules and Behaviour Policy a list of items which children should not bring into school.

The Governing Body expects the Headteacher to clearly state in the Behaviour Policy the circumstances in which a pupil can be searched for the banned items, taking into account the guidance set out in the DfE Guidance: Searching, Screening and Confiscation February 2014.

#### When to consider a Multi-Agency Assessment of Pupils who show continuous disruptive behaviour

The Governing Body expects that consideration be given to such an assessment if a pupil shows ongoing disruptive behaviour in circumstances where the school's reward and sanction system is not effective in managing such behaviour.

The school's process for dealing with such situations should be set out in the Behaviour Policy.