

Hope SENTAMU LEARNING TRUST

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

THIS OVERARCHING TRUST-WIDE POLICY APPLIES TO ALL TRUST SCHOOLS/ACADEMIES WITHIN THE HOPE SENTAMU LEARNING TRUST. ALL SCHOOLS/ACADEMIES WILL MAINTAIN A LOCAL BEHAVIOUR PROCEDURE/POLICY RELEVANT TO THE SETTING

Document Management:

Date Policy Approved: 3rd November 2021

Date amended:

Date updated policy approved:

Next Review Date: November 2022

Version: 1.0

Approving Body: Distinctiveness and Personal Development Committee

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Date	Page	Policy updates
Oct 2021		New policy

Signed by:

_____ Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____

_____ Chair of Distinctiveness and
Personal Development
Committee

Date: _____

Statement of Intent

The Hope Sentamu Learning Trust believes that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The Trust is committed to:

- Promoting positive and acceptable behaviour.
- Promoting self-esteem, self-discipline, proper regard for authority and positive relationships based on mutual respect.
- Ensuring equality and fair treatment for all.
- Promote early intervention.
- Praising and rewarding positive and acceptable behaviour.
- Challenging unacceptable behaviours.
- Providing a safe environment free from disruption, violence, discrimination, bullying and any form of harassment.
- Developing positive relationships with parents/carers.
- Developing positive relationships with pupils.
- Promoting a culture of praise and encouragement in which all pupils can thrive.

The Trust acknowledges that behaviour can sometimes be a result of educational needs, mental health concerns, or other needs and vulnerabilities and will address these needs via an individualised graduated response.

To help reduce the likelihood of behavioural issues related to social, emotional or mental health (SEMH), the Trust aims to create a safe and calm environment in which positive mental health and wellbeing are promoted and pupils are taught to be resilient. The Trust aims to promote resilience as part of a whole-school approach using the following methods:

- **Culture, ethos and environment** - the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff is promoted through the informal curriculum, including leadership practice, policies, values and attitudes, alongside the social and physical environment
- **Teaching** - the curriculum is used to develop pupils' knowledge about health and wellbeing
- **Community engagement** - the schools/academies in the Trust proactively engage with parents/carers, outside agencies and the wider community to promote consistent support for pupils' health and wellbeing.

Where vulnerable pupils or groups are identified, provision will be made to support and promote their positive mental health. The Trust's Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy outline the specific procedures that will be used to assess these pupils for any SEMH-related difficulties that could affect their behaviour.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Education Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Health Act 2006
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008
- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- DfE (2016) 'Behaviour and Discipline in School'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'
- DfE (2021) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0-25 years'
- DfE (2013) 'Use of reasonable force'
- DfE (2018) 'Searching, screening and confiscation'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)
- Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)
- Complaints Procedure and Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)
- Exclusion Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)
- Positive Handling Policy (*where applicable*)
- Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy (*Trust-wide policy*)

2. Definitions

2.1. Low level unacceptable behaviour

For the purpose of this policy, 'low level unacceptable behaviour' is any behaviour which may disrupt the education of the perpetrator and/or other pupils, including, but not limited to:

- Lateness
- Low level disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes

- Non-completion of classwork or homework
- Poor attitude
- Incorrect uniform
- Refusing to complete homework, incomplete homework or arriving at school without homework
- Disruption on public transport
- Use of mobile phones without permission
- Graffiti

‘Low level unacceptable behaviour’ may be escalated to ‘serious unacceptable behaviour’ depending on the severity of the behaviour.

2.2. Serious unacceptable behaviour

For the purposes of this policy, ‘serious unacceptable behaviour’ is defined as any behaviour which may cause harm to oneself or others, damage the reputation of the school/academy within the wider community, and/or any illegal behaviour. This includes but is not limited to:

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Discrimination - not giving equal respect to an individual on the basis of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault (intentional sexual touching without consent).
- Sexual harassment, meaning unwanted conduct, offensive behaviours of a sexual nature, or which affects the dignity of the individual or group of individuals such as:
 - Sexual comments
 - Sexual jokes or taunting
 - Physical behaviour like interfering with clothes
 - Online sexual harassment such as unwanted sexual comments and messages (including on social media), sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos, or sharing of unwanted explicit content
- Bullying - a type of harassment which involves personal abuse or persistent actions which humiliate, intimidate, frighten or demean the individual being bullied.
- Cyber bullying - the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.
- Repeated breaches of the Behaviour Policy
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting and aggression
- Truancy and running away from school

- Refusing to comply with disciplinary sanctions
- Smoking
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Extreme behaviour, such as violence and serious vandalism
- Any behaviour that threatens safety or presents a serious danger
- Any behaviour that seriously inhibits the learning of pupils
- Any behaviour that requires the immediate attention of a staff member
- Verbal abuse, including swearing, racist remarks and threatening language
- Possession of any prohibited or banned items. These are:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Stolen items
 - Tobacco and cigarette papers
 - Fireworks
 - Pornographic images
 - Any article a staff member reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1. The Local Governing Committee (LGC) have overall responsibility for:

- Reviewing and approving the local, school/academy specific behaviour policies, systems and procedures, in conjunction with the Headteacher/Principal.
- Monitoring the policy's effectiveness, holding the Headteacher/Principal to account for its implementation.
- Supporting the promotion of a whole-school culture where calm, dignity and structure encompass every space and activity.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy, as outlined in the Complaints Procedure and Policy.

3.2. The Headteacher/Principal is responsible for:

- Monitoring and implementation of this policy and of the behaviour procedures in the school/academy. This includes the policy's effectiveness in addressing any SEMH-related drivers of poor/unacceptable behaviour.

- Establishing the standard of behaviour expected by pupils within the school/academy.
- The day-to-day implementation of this policy.
- The Headteacher/Principal will ensure that the school/academy environment encourages positive behaviour and that staff deal effectively with poor/unacceptable behaviour, and will monitor how staff implement this policy and the local procedures to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently.
- Reporting to the LGC on the implementation of this policy and the local procedures, including its effectiveness in addressing any SEMH-related issues that could be driving disruptive behaviour.

3.3. The mental health lead is responsible for:

- Overseeing the whole-school approach to mental health, including how this is reflected in this policy and the local procedures, how staff are supported with managing pupils with SEMH-related behavioural difficulties, and how the school manages pupils and parents/carers with regards to the behaviour of pupils with SEMH difficulties.
- Supporting behaviour management in line with the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy.

3.4. The SENCo is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the LGC, Headteacher/Principal and the mental health lead, as part of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), to determine the strategic development of behavioural and SEMH policies and provisions in the school.
- Undertaking day to day responsibilities for the successful operation of the behavioural and SEMH policies to support pupils with SEND, in line with the Trust's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.
- Supporting teachers in the further assessment of the pupil's strengths and areas for development and advising on effective implementation of support.

3.5. Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the Behaviour Policy and the local procedures consistently
- Modelling positive behaviour
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular pupils
- Recording behaviour incidents
- Aiming to teach all pupils the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving their potential, and that every pupil with behavioural difficulties will be able to study the full national curriculum.

3.6. All staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the Behaviour Policy and the local procedures consistently
- promoting a supportive and high-quality learning environment
- modelling high levels of behaviour
- being aware of the signs of behavioural difficulties
- setting high expectations for every pupil
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought and support provided to any pupils with specific behavioural needs.

3.7. Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Supporting their child to adhere to the behaviour policy and procedures set out in the school/academy.
- Informing the school/academy of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour.
- Discussing any behavioural concerns with a member of staff.

3.8. Students are responsible for:

- Their own behaviour both inside and outside the school/academy.
- Reporting any unacceptable behaviour to a member of staff.
- Behaving in an orderly and self-controlled way.
- Showing respect to all members of staff and each other.
- Treat the school/academy buildings and school property with respect.
- Wearing the correct uniform.
- Accepting sanctions when given.
- Refraining from behaving in a way that brings the school/academy into disrepute, including when outside school.

4. Behaviour management

All staff have the authority and responsibility to consistently apply the Trust's Behaviour Policy and the local procedures. This includes rewarding pupils, or where necessary putting sanctions in place for those who fail to adhere to the school/academy rules, this can be both inside and outside of the school.

4.1. Promoting good behaviour

The Trust promotes positive behaviours through recognising, praising and rewarding positive behaviours. Each school/academy should ensure that:

- They build and maintain positive relationships with pupils, built on respect.
- Pupils' achievements are recognised within, but also beyond the classroom environment.
- Positive learning environments are provided, where children feel safe and confident and are able to flourish.

4.2. Rewards

As a Trust we promote positive behaviour by recognising and promoting good behaviours, attitudes and achievements that meet our values and expectations.

The Headteacher/Principal at each school/academy is responsible for setting the arrangements for recognising positive behaviours, attitudes and achievements, based on the principles outlined in this policy. This is done through considering the age, maturity and understanding of the pupils at the school/academy. These systems are shared with pupils, staff and parents/carers to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach.

4.3. Sanctions

Staff can apply and impose reasonable disciplinary sanctions in response to inappropriate behaviours, in line with the local school/academy Behaviour Procedures. Reasonable penalties may include: confiscation, retention or disposal of a pupil's property, in agreement with parents/carers (where appropriate), and/or detentions, during break, lunch or after school.

Sanctions will be proportionate to the behaviours displayed, in accordance with the school/academy systems and procedures, and taking into account the pupil's age, SEND needs or any religious requirements.

Detentions

- Teachers have a legal power to put pupils (under the age of 18) in detention, but will act reasonably and ensure the pupils' safety is not compromised.
- If a lunchtime detention is used, staff will allow reasonable time for the pupil to eat, drink and use the toilet.
- Consent from parents/carers is not required for detentions, but the school/academy will endeavour to inform parents/carers of the detention.
- There is no requirement for notice to be given to parents/carers.

5. Classroom Management

Teaching and support staff are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the classroom. Well-managed classrooms are paramount to preventing disruptive and unacceptable behaviour.

5.1. Staff will:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages pupils to be engaged.
- Display the pupil code of conduct within the classroom.
- Develop a positive relationship with pupils, which may include:
 - Greeting pupils in the morning/at the start of lessons
 - Establishing clear routines
 - Communicating expectations of behaviour in ways other than verbally
 - Highlighting and promoting positive behaviour
 - Concluding the day positively and starting the next day afresh
 - Each lesson is a fresh start
 - Having a plan for dealing with low-level disruption
 - Using positive reinforcement.

6. Pupil support

- 6.1. The Trust recognises its legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to prevent pupils with a protected characteristic from being at a disadvantage. Consequently, our approach to challenging behaviour may be differentiated to cater to the needs of the pupil.
- 6.2. The school's/academy's special educational needs co-ordinator will evaluate a pupil who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met. Where necessary, support and advice will also be sought from specialist teachers, an educational psychologist, medical practitioners and/or others, to identify or support specific needs. When acute needs are identified in a pupil, we will liaise with external agencies and plan support programmes for that child. We will work with parents/carers to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

7. Safeguarding

- 7.1. The Trust recognises that changes in behaviour may be an indicator that a pupil is in need of help or protection. We will consider whether a pupil's misbehaviour may be linked to them suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, schools/academies will follow their Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

8. Sexual abuse and discrimination

- 8.1. The Trust prohibits all forms of sexual abuse and discrimination, including sexual harassment, gender-based bullying and sexual violence. The Trust's procedures for handling peer-on-peer sexual abuse and discrimination are detailed in the Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy.

8.2. The Trust will work with all schools/academies to ensure that all incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence are met with a suitable response, and never ignored. Pupils are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable, no matter how 'small' they feel it might be.

8.3. The response to any incidents of sexual abuse and/or discrimination will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

8.4. The schools within the Trust have procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing. These include clear processes for:

- Responding to a report
- Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:
 - manage the incident internally
 - refer to early help
 - refer to children's social care
 - report to the Police

9. Smoking and controlled substances

9.1. In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006, all schools/academies in the Trust are smoke-free environments. Parents/carers, visitors, staff and pupils are instructed not to smoke on school/academy grounds. Pupils are not permitted to bring smoking materials or nicotine products into the school/academy.

9.2. The Trust has a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs, legal highs and other controlled substances. Where incidents with pupils related to controlled substances occur, the school/academy will follow the procedures outlined in the local Behaviour Policy/Procedures and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

10. Prohibited items, searching pupils and confiscation

10.1. Headteachers/Principals and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. The prohibited items are:

The model list below was created using the DfE's '[Searching, screening and confiscation](#)' guidance. To search for any items not listed here, staff will require the consent of the pupil being searched.

- Knives or weapons.
- Alcohol.
- Illegal drugs.
- Stolen items.
- Tobacco and cigarette papers.
- Fireworks.
- Pornographic images.
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used:
 - To commit an offence; or
 - To cause personal injury to any person, including the pupil themselves; or
 - To damage the property of any person, including the pupil themselves.

10.2. All members of staff can use their power to search without consent for any of the items listed above. Staff will follow the provisions outlined in this policy and the local procedures when conducting searches and confiscating items.

10.3. The Headteacher/Principal and other authorised members of staff are permitted to use reasonable force when conducting a search without consent for certain prohibited items, in line with the school's/academy's Positive Handling Policy (where applicable) and/or the local Behaviour Policy/Procedures.

11. Behaviour off school premises

11.1. Sanctions may be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site when representing the school/ academy. This means misbehaviour when the pupil is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity (e.g. school trips)
- Travelling to or from school
- Wearing school uniform
- In any other way identifiable as a pupil of our school/academy
- Sanctions may also be applied where a pupil has misbehaved off-site at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misbehaviour:
 - Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school/academy
 - Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public
 - Could adversely affect the reputation of the school/academy
 - Sanctions will only be given out on school/academy premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the staff member (e.g. on a school-organised trip).

12. Malicious Allegations

- 12.1. Where a pupil makes an allegation against a member of staff and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school/academy will discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.
- 12.2. Where a pupil makes an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment against another pupil and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school/academy will discipline the pupil in accordance with this policy.
- 12.3. In all cases where an allegation is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the school/academy (in collaboration with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), where relevant) will consider whether the pupil who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help. If so, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.
- 12.4. The school/academy will also consider the pastoral needs of staff and pupils accused of misconduct. Please refer to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy and the Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy or more information on responding to allegations of abuse against staff or other pupils.

13. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Distinctiveness and Personal Development Committee. Any changes made to this policy by the Trust will be communicated to all members of staff. All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy and the local procedures. The next scheduled review date for this policy is listed on the cover page of the policy.