Promoting Positive Behaviour

A simple guide for children and families

Our approach

We focus on helping children make positive choices, learn from mistakes and build resilience.

At St George's our ethos is to recognise and encourage good behaviour and enable all children to make their own choice for the good; for those around them and themselves. There are times when things do not work out or a choice is made that negatively affects others. After a situation like this occurs, staff will discuss what happened, the outcomes, the child's responsibility in the situation and what they could do differently next time.

It is during these conversations that two important things happen. Firstly, the child understands that everyone can make a wrong choice and it is what we intend to do differently next time that is important. The second is that the child begins to build resilience, the ability to recover quickly when things do not work out how they expect. One of the key things about developing resilience is that children learn from their mistakes; this means by taking responsibility, we equip them for later life.

How does the school reward my child?

We have a very positive attitude towards discipline, rewarding children housepoints for good effort and attitude. Once the children reach ten housepoints, they are awarded a houseball during Friday's celebration assembly. All children belong to one of four school houses: St Margaret Clitherow (blue), St Thomas More (green), St Anne Line (red) and St John Fisher (yellow). We then add these up at the end of each term and the winning house is rewarded with a non-uniform day. There are occasions when a class has golden time or an extra playtime to recognise their efforts.

Are there any other ways that adults in the school recognise positive learning or social behaviour?

Another incentive for good working behaviour is the use of teacher comments in the children's books. This encourages positive relationships and a focus on continued hard work and improvement. The children may also be sent to the Head Teacher so their efforts can be further recognised with a sticker and a message home. Children are recognised throughout EYFS, Key Stage 1 as 'Star of the Day, or a 'Secret Student of the Day' in KS2. In addition, the weekly Head Teacher's award identifies individuals whose learning behaviour has stood out that week.

There are, of course, always a few children who struggle hard with behaviour in any school. For these children, we like to work closely with their parents/carers to help the children to build up their self-esteem enough to give them the confidence to make right choices. If a child has had a bad session or day, they can start afresh the following lesson or next school day.

I recently received an email/phone call from the school about my child's behaviour. Why?

It is very rare for any child to be in school for seven full years without being reminded or spoken to about their behaviour. Whilst small misdemeanours are easily corrected with a reminder about expected behaviour, there are occasions where children continue to misbehave. At this point the classteacher will give the child a sanction. We inform parents via email/phone call when their child

displays inappropriate behaviour during the school day. This helps us work in partnership with you, our parents and carers.

Why is an email sent/phone call made rather than the classteacher having a quiet word in the playground?

We have listened to feedback from many of our parents who feel that if they are spoken to at the end of the school day, a judgement is being made about their child by other parents on the playground. Sending a message via email/phone call beforehand, not only gives the parent privacy, it also gives you thinking time about what key messages you want to speak to your child about concerning their behaviour. In addition to this, the children are aware that this is part of the sanction and the thought of an email being sent to their parents is usually enough of an incentive to correct their behaviour.

Am I expected to also give a sanction at home?

This is very much parental choice. The school deals with the behaviour on that day and then we move on to promote positive behaviour during the next session or day. Some parents will discuss behaviour choices with their child, whilst others will temporarily remove something 'fun', i.e. technology time for that afternoon/evening.

How can I find out more information about what happened?

We ask that you contact the office to make an appointment so that time and space can be given to discuss any issues; this may be face to face or a phone call. We ask that you try and include as much detail as you can so we can investigate the matter fully. We will respond at our earliest convenience to arrange a mutually convenient time. There may be times where your child's version of events are different to what has been reported. This is very common as children do not want to be in trouble at school, or with you. Please be aware though, before a sanction is given, or an email sent, a fair investigation of what happened has been carried out by the adults (with your child/other children/adults being spoken to), and/or it has been an action directly witnessed by a member of staff.

Will my child get sent to Headteacher for unacceptable behaviour?

No, not unless they display extreme behaviour. In the first instance, the child will be reminded about their behaviour. If this behaviour continues, the classteacher will deal with the situation, a sanction for the behaviour will be given and an email will be sent home. It may be at this point that a note is made on our school behaviour reporting system. If inappropriate behaviour continues, the child will be sent to the Deputy Headteacher and an appointment between the classteacher and parents will be arranged to discuss the behaviour. The behaviour will be logged. If the behaviour further escalates, the child will be sent to the Head Teacher. At this point there will be regular meetings to discuss a personalised behaviour plan, devised for your child. It is at this point we may begin to involve outside agencies such as Behaviour Support, Early Help Family Support etc, to support the family unit as a whole. All actions and outcomes will be logged.

If your child demonstrates extreme behaviour, they will be immediately sent to Head Teacher/Deputy Headteacher with no steps in between. You will be contacted and will be asked to come to the school for a meeting with the Head Teacher at the first opportunity. We class extreme behaviour as:

- Child on child abuse* (this includes online activities)
- Physical assault on another child or adult
- Bullying*

Child-on-child abuse

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.

Bullying - a definition

“Behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of child on child abuse.

As a school we have a clear procedure on how we deal with child on child abuse and bullying. Full details can be found in our Anti Bullying policy which can be accessed via our website www.sgcps.co.uk or requesting a paper copy at the office.

Remember

Everyone makes mistakes. What matters is learning from them and making a better choice next time.