

Behaviour and Student Discipline Policy

Freedom Thinkers Education

POLICY STATEMENT

Freedom Thinkers Education promotes a safe and caring environment for all in school, where positive behaviour is encouraged so that effective learning and teaching can flourish and the children have every opportunity to participate, to achieve, and to reach their potential.

POLICY RATIONALE

- To develop pupils' sense of self-discipline and understanding of responsibility for their own actions.
- To promote and develop a culture of raising self-esteem, respect for others and positive relationships throughout the school.
- To provide a supportive structure in order to maximize opportunities for effective learning and teaching to take place.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Positive relationships are vital for successful learning and teaching in school. Staff, therefore are as constructive as possible, setting a positive example for pupils. We do this by:

- teaching the children what good behaviour looks like
- teaching and reinforcing the benefits of good behaviour
- setting and maintaining a calm, secure environment in class
- using good classroom management strategies effectively

IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

Classroom management

Teachers discuss with their pupils:

- what is acceptable and what is unacceptable behaviour
- what pupils can expect as recognition of good behaviour
- what will happen if pupils choose to engage in unacceptable behaviour. (Emphasise that they are making a choice.)

It is reasonable for all pupils to expect staff to:

- manage classroom behaviour by applying policies in a fair, consistent and caring manner
- set a good example with their own behaviour in the school and classroom
- teach and provide work at an appropriate level and ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to work to their full potential
- encourage good work habits

In return, pupils are expected to:

- come to school equipped to work, with any appropriate tools for the day
- take care of their own and others' equipment, including the school's
- listen to the teachers' lessons and instructions and follow them accordingly
- show respect for the teachers and other members of the class by not disrupting or interrupting the work of others
- follow school and class rules and behave in a safe manner

Sharing Behaviour Issues

In all classes, children are supported in sharing social, behavioural, and friendship issues:

- the above includes playground games and behaviour
- issues are shared during class meetings or privately depending on the nature of the issue and the comfort level of the student

Pupil Incentives

Throughout the school, students are provided with opportunities to apply for and take on classroom leadership roles and responsibilities. We believe that giving students meaningful responsibilities helps build confidence, independence, and a strong sense of community.

Older students, in particular, are encouraged to have a voice in matters affecting the school, including social, environmental, and community issues. They are given opportunities to represent the school on various occasions and to develop leadership, initiative, and enterprise through authentic experiences.

Students are encouraged to build self-esteem and leadership skills by:

- Participating in and leading school projects.
- Teaching and leading dances, activities, and events.
- Writing letters to raise concerns, share ideas, and advocate for positive change.
- Planning and organizing special school days and community events.
- Developing and leading physical education and fitness activities for younger students.
- Serving in classroom and school-wide leadership roles.

These opportunities encourage students to become confident, responsible, and engaged members of both the school community and society.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

Rewards

Every classroom is a positive learning environment where good behaviour and achievement will be recognized, discussed, and encouraged.

Sanctions

Staff use a range of strategies when dealing with children who present challenging behaviour. It is recognized that some strategies are more appropriate than others with different children in different situations.

It is inevitable however, that some pupils will choose to misbehave so the following consequences may include (but not be limited to) the following:

Class teacher

- Verbal warning
- Official warning
- Time out in another class
- Possible playground exclusion (detention)
- Sent to the principal
- Writing a paragraph/essay on behavior and how it affects others

Principal

- Contact with parents
- Behaviour/contract sheet
- Classroom exclusion
- Individual behaviour plan
- Expulsion

Staff use their professional judgement to determine the consequences of each individual incident. The pupil must be told that he/she is choosing to do this.

It may be that a few pupils might benefit from the regular support and feedback of a structured behaviour monitoring system.

Very Serious Incidents

In the case of very serious misbehaviour, the child will be sent to the principal and a parent will be contacted immediately. Criteria for a serious incident could include (not exclusively):

- Deliberate defiance
- Disrespect towards others
- Physical or severe verbal abuse
- Spitting
- Danger to self or others
- Leaving school without permission
- Bullying
- Racism
- Vandalism

School staff will always take a serious view of such incidents and parents will be contacted to discuss next steps.

Playground Behaviour

Our playground supervisors encourage and support fun and friendly play. It may be appropriate to place a child on playground exclusion – ‘detention’. This should be used as a sanction for poor playtime behaviour and may extend until it is deemed appropriate for a child to return to regular playtime.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff, including visiting staff and support and teaching staff share responsibility for promoting the Positive Behaviour Policy throughout the school’s shared areas including classrooms and school grounds. All staff therefore look for ways to encourage and reward good behaviour and deal with inappropriate behaviour.

Classroom teachers ensure the policy is implemented fairly and consistently.

MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEW

- At the start of each year, staff review this policy
- Once the policy is reviewed, they sign off that it has been reviewed
- There will be observation of policy in practice
- Feedback from pupils and parents will be noted and reflected upon

We are, as a whole staff, committed to supporting and encouraging pupils to manage and improve behaviour, raise self-esteem and regard for others and to develop positive attitudes towards learning. At all times, staff endeavour to work in harmony with each other and with parents, pupils, and staff from other services where available. It is the aim of the school to do what is best for the individual pupil and for all of the children in our care to ensure that Freedom Thinkers Education is a safe and positive environment in which effective learning and teaching can flourish.

Revised: May 2026