HORNINGSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Behaviour and Exclusions Policy



Together We Learn

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a successful, community school with a strong family feel. We nurture and inspire everyone in our community to be the best they can. With strong traditional values and high expectations, we ignite a passion for life-long learning and enable our children to be confident, aspirational and creative learners.

Behaviour and Exclusions Policy

This behaviour policy is written in accordance with the school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, in respect of safeguarding and in respect of pupils with SEND.

Supporting Policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Managing Serial and Unreasonable Complaints

Policy reviewed by staff:	September 2025
Policy approved by governors:	30.9.25
Policy published:	1.10.25
Next review:	September 2026

Rationale

At Horningsham Primary School, we aim to create a caring, inclusive environment where every member of the school community feels valued, respected and supported. We believe that high standards of behaviour are essential for effective learning and positive relationships. We work together with staff, pupils and parents to uphold our shared values with consistency and compassion.

Our approach is rooted in mutual respect, emotional safety and a belief that behaviour is learned and can be positively influenced through modelling, reflection and support. We are committed to fostering a culture of kindness, accountability, and self-discipline, while recognising that individual needs and circumstances may require flexible, equitable responses. Through restorative practice and a strong sense of community, we aim to guide pupils in developing the skills they need to thrive, both in school and in the wider world.

Aims

- 1. To promote respectful relationships, kindness and good behaviour.
- 2. To ensure a safe, inclusive and emotionally secure environment.
- 3. To foster self-discipline, reflection and personal responsibility.
- 4. To maintain fair, consistent boundaries and expectations.
- 5. To prevent and address behavioural issues through proactive teaching and restorative approaches.
- 6. To provide equitable, personalised behaviour support when needed.

Our Approach

A consistent approach by all adults in the school community is essential to achieving and maintaining high standards of behaviour. At Horningsham Primary School, we believe that a positive, relational, and preventative approach to discipline is more effective than being negative or confrontational.

We view behaviour as a form of communication. While we encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions and understand that choices lead to consequences, both rewards and sanctions, we also recognise that some behaviours may arise from unmet needs, including SEND, neurodiversity, trauma, or mental health challenges.

Our approach is based on the belief that supportive relationships, clear boundaries and early intervention are key to promoting positive behaviour. We use a range of strategies, including:

- Consistent routines and expectations
- Positive reinforcement and recognition
- De-escalation and regulation strategies
- Restorative conversations after incidents
- Personalised support and reasonable adjustments where needed

All staff are expected to model respectful, calm behaviour and work proactively to support pupils in making positive choices, learning from mistakes and feeling safe and valued in school.

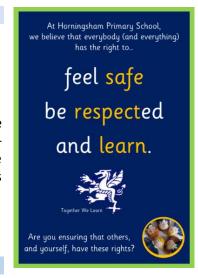
Safe, Respect, Learn

We believe that everybody has the right to:

- Feel safe,
- be respected (property too),
- and learn.

Our school expects every member of the school community to adhere to these rules. These are displayed in every classroom and in communal spaces and referred to by all staff. We reteach/reflect on these rules at the beginning of each academic year to reaffirm a positive approach towards behaviour and also refer to these expectations in whole school assemblies regularly.

These rules guide every conversation that we have with our pupils about behaviour.



At Horningsham Primary School we value... Teamwork Curiosity Kindness Dreaming Big

Values

We have high expectations for our pupils, as ultimately we want to prepare them for life beyond school and to encourage them to be virtuous citizens who are accountable for their own behaviour.

At Horningsham Primary School we value:

- Curiosity
- Kindness
- Teamwork
- Dreaming Big
- Tenacity
- Honesty

Roles and Responsibilities

Although the Headteacher is ultimately responsible for overseeing the behaviour and discipline in the school, it is a shared responsibility with teaching staff, Teaching Partners (TPs), Mid-Day Supervisory Assistants (MDSAs) and parents.

The Role of the Headteacher:

- Day-to-day responsibility for implementing the Behaviour and Exclusions Policy.
- Responsible for setting and maintaining high standards of behaviour across the school and supporting staff in applying the policy consistently.
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all pupils and staff.
- Keep records of all serious incidents of misbehaviour.
- Report to the Governors on the effectiveness of the policy.
- Consider whether behaviour may be an indicator of a wider safeguarding or welfare needs.
- Issue fixed-term (suspension) exclusions in response to serious incidents of misbehaviour.
- In cases of persistent or exceptionally serious behaviour, the Headteacher may decide to permanently exclude a pupil, in line with statutory guidance.

The Role of Governors:

- Responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of this policy.
- Support the Headteacher in ensuring implementation across the school.
- Provide advice to the Headteacher on disciplinary matters.
- Participate in disciplinary panels for permanent exclusions or certain fixed-term exclusions.

Pupil Responsibilities:

- Keep themselves and others safe, both physically and emotionally.
- Treat others with kindness, fairness and respect.
- Show respect for school property and the belongings of others.
- Be ready to learn and allow others to learn without disruption.
- Take responsibility for their actions and reflect on their behaviour.

Parents' Responsibilities:

- Be aware of the school's behaviour expectations and rules.
- Support the school in the implementing this policy consistently and constructively.
- Model respectful, responsible and positive behaviour.
- Help their child understand and demonstrate appropriate behaviour in all settings.
- Encourage independence, reflection and self-discipline at home and at school.
- Support their child in developing the values and behaviours needed for life beyond primary school.

Staff's Responsibilities:

- Treat all children fairly, consistently and with respect.
- Create a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment.
- Apply rules, rewards and sanctions clearly and consistently.
- Model respectful, responsible and calm behaviours at all times.
- Teach, encourage and reinforce positive behaviour, while actively discouraging anti-social behaviour.
- Communicate effectively with colleagues and parents about notable behaviour both positive and concerning.
- Support pupils in developing the social and emotional skills they need for life beyond primary school.

Strategies for Encouraging Good Behaviour:

We use a range of proactive strategies to promote and reinforce positive behaviour across the school. These include:

Making expectations clear	Pupils are regularly reminded of behaviour expectations in a consistent, ageappropriate way. Expectations of good behaviour are clear.
Modelling and praising positive	Staff actively demonstrate respectful, kind and responsible behaviour and use praise
behaviour	to reinforce it.
Explicitly teaching social and	Through assemblies, PSHE and daily interactions, we teach pupils how to manage
communication skills	relationships, resolve conflict and express themselves appropriately.
Dramating mutual respect	We foster a culture of kindness, inclusion and respect to discourage unsociable or
Promoting mutual respect	harmful behaviour.
Encouraging personal	Pupils are supported to reflect on their actions, take responsibility and make positive
responsibility	choices.
Displaying rules and values	Behaviour expectations are clearly displayed in classrooms and communal areas as a
	consistent visual reminder.
Using praise and recognition	Positive behaviour is recognised through verbal praise, reward systems and
Osing praise and recognition	celebration of success.
Delivering high-quality, engaging	Effective teaching is central to maintaining good behaviour by keeping pupils
lessons	motivated, focused and successful.

Praise and Positivity

At Horningsham Primary School, we believe in recognising and celebrating positive behaviour to promote a culture of kindness, effort and achievement. We actively praise behaviour that goes above and beyond expectations, not just what is expected.

Staff use a range of verbal, non-verbal and tangible rewards, including:

- © Verbal praise, quiet encouragement, a smile or a thumbs up.
- © Stickers or other small tokens of recognition.
- © Use of systems such as Tickled Pink to highlight exceptional choices.
- ② Adding pupils' names to the Spotted Board for demonstrating school values.
- © Awarding team points for kind, helpful and positive behaviour as well we academic effort.
- © Celebrating the collection of team points through merits, which are recognised in Celebration Assembly.
- © Visits to other staff members or the Headteacher to share exemplary work or behaviour.
- © Table of the Week to recognise positive conduct in the lunch hall.
- © Age-appropriate class rewards such as stars in a jar.
- Special awards such as the Headteacher's Award and the Kindness Cup, awarded each seasonal term.
- © Certificates and an end of year treat for the winning house team.
- © Sharing positive messages with parents/carers to strengthen the home-school connection.

Responding To Challenging Behaviour

At Horningsham Primary School, we aim to understand and respond to challenging behaviour with compassion and consistency. Staff are encouraged to consider the underlying causes of behaviour, including emotional needs, SEND, trauma or other contextual factors.

When behaviour falls below expectations, appropriate sanctions or interventions may be used to help pupils reflect, regulate and repair. These are always proportionate, purposeful and tailored to the age and needs of the pupil.

When challenging behaviour is identified, school may use a range of sanctions including:

- A verbal or visual reminder of expectations.
- A clear warning if the behaviour continues.
- A change of seating or location within the classroom.
- A brief time out or withdrawal to support regulation and reflection.
- Missing part of a breaktime to complete work or engage in a restorative action.
- Temporary work in another classroom.
- A conversation with the Headteacher.
- © Contact with parents/carers.
- (a) Withdrawal of significant privileges e.g. participation in a school trip, event or club.

The nature of the response will be decided by the class teacher or relevant staff member, considering the pupil's age, needs and the context of the incident. While we differentiate our approach to meet individual needs, our core expectations for behaviour apply to all pupils.

In cases of dangerous, aggressive or seriously defiant behaviour, staff should escalate directly to loss of privileges and inform the Headteacher without delay.

Responding to Persistent or Repeated Behaviour Concerns

Where a pupil repeatedly fails to meet behaviour expectations, staff will respond in a proportionate and supportive manner, always taking the context and individual needs into account. The following actions may be taken – not necessarily in a fixed order:

- 1. Withdrawal of privileges over a sustained period.
- 2. Involvement of the class teacher and/or Headteacher, as appropriate.
- 3. Informal contact with parents/carers by the class teacher or Headteacher.
- 4. Formal contact with parents/carers to discuss concerns and agree next steps.
- 5. Use of home-school behaviour book, where appropriate, to support communication and consistency.
- 6. Implementation of an Individual Behaviour Plan to provide structured support.
- 7. Consideration of exclusion procedures in line with statutory guidance.
- 8. Possible suspension or permanent exclusion, depending on the severity, frequency and nature of behaviours displayed.

Note: These actions are flexible and may not occur in sequential order. Decisions will be made by the class teacher in consultation with the Headteacher, based on the specific behaviours and context of the child.

Restorative Practice

At Horningsham Primary School, we are committed to using restorative practices to help pupils reflect on their behaviour, repair harm, and rebuild positive relationships. When incidents of conflict or inappropriate behaviour occur, staff may facilitate restorative conversations that encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions, understand the impact on others, and agree on steps to move forward. This approach supports emotional development, strengthens the school community, and promotes accountability in a respectful and constructive way. Restorative practice is not a replacement for consequences but works alongside sanctions to ensure that pupils learn from their actions and are supported to make better choices in the future.

Partnership with Parents

Communicating both good and unacceptable behaviour with parents is important for reinforcing this policy and expectations. Working in partnership with parents is essential so that clear and consistent messages are understood by pupils, and that parents can recognise and feel assured our policy is carefully thought out to ensure we manage behaviour fairly and effectively.

Working with Other Agencies

Continuing disruptive behaviour may necessitate involvement of other agencies (e.g. Behaviour Support, Educational Psychologist) so that a multi-agency approach can be implemented to support a child and modify behaviour. Any work with other agencies will be undertaken with the consent and involvement of the parents.

De-escalation Measures

Ideally preventing disruptive behaviour is a key aim and as a staff we agree working principles based on need within each classroom to minimise situations arising where known triggers are identifiable. Staff however may need to use a range of agreed strategies to de-escalate situations in some instances with disruptive and challenging pupils.

De-escalation measures for some pupils include:

• Use of calm, low tone of voice.	• Provide a quiet space / 'safe zone' or calming resources.
 Giving time and space. 	Use positive statements.
 Giving simple one-step instructions. 	Acknowledge feelings without judgement.
Offer simple, clear choices.	Use of visual aids or prompts.
Distraction and redirection.	Personalised regulation strategies.

Individual Behaviour Plans

Some pupils may require an Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP) to provide targeted support in managing their behaviour. These plans set out personalised rules, rewards and consequences and are used when behaviour requires more focused monitoring, support and intervention.

- IBPs are developed in consultation with the pupil (where appropriate), class teacher, parents/carers and relevant staff.
- All staff will be made aware of a pupil's IBP to ensure a consistent and supportive approach across the school.
- Where necessary and appropriate, elements of an IBP may be shared sensitively with peers to support the wider wellbeing and safety of all pupils.

Risk Assessments

A risk assessment will be completed for any pupil following a serious incident e.g. physical aggression, running off site, or where behaviours pose a potential risk to the safety of themselves or others.

- Risk assessments identify known triggers, preventative strategies, de-escalation techniques and a clear response plan, including any agreed use of positive handling or physical intervention in line with statutory guidance.
- A simple three-step crisis plan may be included to support staff in managing emergencies calmy and safely.
- All staff will be informed of risk assessments to ensure consistent understanding and safe, appropriate responses.

Reasonable Adjustments and SEND

Some pupils, particularly those with SEND, neurodiversity, trauma-related needs or medical conditions, may require reasonable adjustments to behaviour expectations and responses. These adjustments are made on an individual basis in consultation with:

- The SENDCo
- External Professionals e.g. Educational Psychologist, behaviour support services
- Parent/carers

All behaviour support planning will be proactive, inclusive and child-centred, in line with the Equality Act (2010) and statutory SEND guidance.

Online Conduct

At Horningsham Primary School, we expect all pupils to demonstrate the same high standards of behaviour online as they do in person. This includes showing respect, kindness, and responsibility when using technology both in and out of school. Pupils must not use digital devices or online platforms to bully, intimidate, or harass others. Any inappropriate use of the internet, school devices, or social media that affects the wellbeing of pupils or staff, or disrupts the learning environment, will be treated seriously and may lead to sanctions in line with this policy. The Online Safety Policy should be read alongside this Behaviour Policy, as it outlines further expectations and guidance regarding safe and responsible digital behaviour.

Totally Unacceptable Behaviour

Certain behaviours are considered serious breaches of the school's Behaviour Policy and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Vandalism
- Racism, homophobia, transphobia or misogyny
- Harassment (including sexual or discriminatory harassment
- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Swearing or verbal abuse
- Rudeness or defiance towards staff

The response to such behaviours will depend on the nature, severity and context of the incident, as well as the individual needs of the pupil(s) involved. While a progressive approach is preferred, some behaviours may warrant immediate exclusion or safeguarding action. The following steps may be taken:

- 1) A calm, restorative discussion with the pupil(s)involved.
- 2) Immediate contact with parents or carers; a meeting may be arranged in school.
- 3) Detailed recording of the incident and actions taken.
- 4) Review or initiation of an Individual Behaviour Plan and/or risk assessment, as appropriate.
- 5) Ongoing monitoring and review of behaviour and support strategies.
- 6) Implementation of exclusion procedures in line with DfE statutory guidance.

Physical Assault or Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

In incidents involving physical violence or harmful sexual behaviour, the following actions will be taken:

- 1) Follow the steps outline above (1-6) including recording and parental involvement.
- 2) Refer to the pupil's Individual Behaviour Plan and risk assessment to guide de-escalation and response.
- 3) If necessary, use positive handling or physical restraint, in accordance with school policy and training, and record its use.
- 4) Implement exclusion procedures where appropriate (suspension or permanent exclusion).
- 5) If a pupil returns from suspension, steps 1-5 should be repeated to support reintegration and prevent recurrence.
- 6) In cases of harmful sexual behaviour, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) must be informed immediately. The incident will be managed in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and the DfE's guidance on sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools.

All allegations of harmful sexual behaviour will be dealt with in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, including referral to Integrated Front Door and/or police where appropriate.

The Use of 'Reasonable Force' in School

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions involving physical contact, used by staff to control or restrain pupils. This can range from gently guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more serious situations such as breaking up a fight or restraining a pupil to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable' in this context means using no more force than is necessary for the situation. Reasonable force may involve:

- Passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or
- Active physical contact, such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

Horningsham Primary School follows the Department for Education (DfE) guidance, <u>Use of Reasonable Force in Schools</u>.

All staff are expected to follow our school's Behaviour and Exclusions Policy. Pupils are encouraged to meet these expectations to minimise the need for the use of reasonable force.

Staff will work collaboratively with pupils and parents/carers to implement positive and proactive behaviour support, which may include:

- individual support plans
- referral to specialist agencies
- agreed actions to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour

Restraint in school

In some situations, it may be necessary to physically restrain a pupil in order to prevent them from causing harm to themselves or others. Restraint may also be a planned intervention, as outlined in a pupil's individual behaviour support plan.

Only staff who are trained and certified in the use of physical restraint, using the Team Teach approach, are authorised to carry out such interventions.

Wherever restraint is used:

- Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible, ideally on the same day.
- A written report will be completed and submitted to the Local Authority, in line with reporting procedures.

Fixed-term Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions

'Exclusion' is the umbrella term for both 'suspension' and 'permanent exclusion'. Exclusion will take place as a result of a serious breach of discipline which has arisen at school. Only the Headteacher has the authority to suspend or exclude a pupil from school. The Governing Body itself cannot either exclude a pupil or extend the exclusion period made by the Headteacher.

A pupil may be suspended for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year), or permanently excluded. It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion, if circumstances warrant this. A permanent exclusion will be taken as a last resort.

For the purposes of exclusions, a school day is defined as any day on which there is a school session. Therefore, INSET or staff training days do not count as a school day.

Horningsham Primary School is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as: "...the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil."

We are committed to following all statutory exclusion procedures to ensure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment. Any decision to exclude must be:

- 1. lawful (with respect to the legislation relating to exclusions and to a school's wider legal duties)
- 2. reasonable
- 3. fair
- 4. proportionate

A decision to exclude a pupil will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the headteacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence, including whether the incident(s) leading to the exclusion were provoked
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events
- Consider if the pupil has special educational needs or a disability (SEND)

Procedure for Exclusion:

- 1. Headteacher verbally informs the parents immediately.
- 2. Within 24hrs the Headteacher confirms in writing the reasons for the exclusion and the length of a fixed-term exclusion and makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the Governing Body.
- 3. Headteacher informs the LA and the Chair of Governors about any fixed-term or permanent exclusion.
- 4. Headteacher considers any safeguarding risks during the child's exclusion risk assessment completed.
- 5. Headteacher endeavours to meet with the parents and child prior to their return from a fixed exclusion for a reintegration meeting to discuss how their behaviour will be monitored and measures that will be in place.

Appeals

- 1. The Governing Body shall form an Exclusion Appeals Committee, which is made up of three members. This committee considers any exclusion appeals on behalf of the governors at a Governor Disciplinary Committee Meeting for the child.
- 2. When an Exclusions Appeals Committee meets to consider an exclusion they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, consider any representation by parents and the LA, and consider whether the Headteacher's decision is to be upheld.
- 3. If the Governors' Exclusion Appeals Committee decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the Headteacher must comply with this ruling.

Positive return to education planning (PREP) meeting

Following a fixed-term exclusion the pupil and their parents will be invited to attend a reintegration meeting to discuss how their behaviour will be monitored and measures that will be in place. The purpose of a meeting with parents and the pupil following an exclusion is to maximise the chances of the pupil having a successful return to school.

School connectedness and relationships are seen as crucial in leading to a number of positive outcomes for children Exclusion from school is likely to have a negative impact on such relationships and a consistently applied approach to helping pupils return positively to school can reduce the likelihood of further suspension or even permanent exclusion.

For further information, please refer to the DfE document: School Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions (August 2024).

Staff Development and Support:

Regular training and professional development of behaviour strategies will be undertaken by all staff to ensure they are equipped to deal as effectively as possible with all behaviour needs and situations.

Training includes: de-escalation, managing ADHD, ADD, ASD, Behaviour Support surgeries, MISA training for staff to discuss and develop strategies with external professionals for specific and general need.

Monitoring

- The Headteacher monitors the effectiveness of this policy with staff on a regular basis.
- Our Safeguarding Governor collates pupil voice annually which also explores elements of this policy.
- We seek pupil voice annually to ensure that pupils feel safe and respected as a result of this policy.
- Sections of the parent questionnaire link with this policy.
- The school keeps a variety of records of incidents of misbehaviour and the Headteacher keeps a record of any pupil who is excluded for a fixed-term, or who is permanently excluded. All records are kept in line with the Data Protection Policy.
- The Governing Body monitors rate of exclusions, and ensures that the school policy is administered fairly and consistently.

This policy takes into account the following guidance and legislation:

Department for Education (DfE):

- Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff (Updated September 2022)
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England, including Pupil Movement (Updated August 2024)
- Use of Reasonable Force: Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies (DfE, July 2013)
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (DfE, July 2022)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) Statutory Guidance (Updated September 2024)

Legislation:

- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 especially Section 88 regarding behaviour principles
- The Equality Act 2010 with particular regard to safeguarding and pupils with SEND
- The Children and Families Act 2014 particularly in relation to SEND provision and reasonable adjustments

Ofsted:

• School Inspection Handbook - particularly the expectations regarding behaviour, safeguarding, and leadership

Other Influential Literature and Practice-Based Guidance:

• When the Adults Change, Everything Changes by Paul Dix (Independent Thinking Press, 2017)

Appendix A:

Horningsham Primary School: Behaviour Principles Statement

At Horningsham Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment where all members of the school community can thrive. This statement of principles is intended to guide the Headteacher and staff in developing, implementing and reviewing the school's Behaviour and Exclusions Policy. It is reviewed and approved annually by the full governing body in accordance with section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Our Behaviour Principles:

- Every member of the school community has the right to feel safe, the right to respect and the right to learn.
- All pupils, staff, parents and visitors have the right to be free from discrimination, in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Positive behaviour is modelled by all adults in school, including staff, governors and volunteers at all times.
- Rewards and sanctions are applied consistently and fairly, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. The use of reasonable force is only ever a last resort and is carried out in accordance with statutory guidance.
- The Behaviour Policy is clearly communicated and understood by pupils, staff and parents/carers.
- Pupils are supported to develop self-regulation, take responsibility for their actions and make positive behaviour choices.
- The school works in close partnership with families to promote positive behaviour and address any concerns collaboratively.
- Suspensions (fixed-term exclusions) and permanent exclusions are used only when absolutely necessary and always in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance and the Local Authority's procedures.
- The governing body emphasis that violence, threatening behaviour and any form of bullying or harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Horningsham Governors

September 2025