



Written Statement of Behaviour Principles

Reviewed Annually by Houghton School Governing Body

Date: February 2026

Review: February 2027

Section 88 of the Education and Inspectors Act 2006 and DfE guidance (Behaviour in Schools, 2016) requires the Governors to make and frequently review, a written statement of general behaviour principles to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour.

All children at Houghton School have moderate to severe learning difficulties and complex needs and therefore it is understood that behaviours can form part of their communication of their thoughts and feelings.

It is intended that this statement will help staff to be aware of and understand their role in managing the behaviour of the children

This is a statement of principles, not practice.

The Governors at Houghton School believe that high standards of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school that enable children to make the best possible progress in all aspects of their school life.

At Houghton School, we value everyone as an individual, capable of growth, change and development. Our relationships are underpinned by the principles of justice, equality, mutual respect, fairness and consistency. We have high expectations that support the development of our children as effective and responsible citizens.

The purpose of this statement is to give guidance to the Headteacher in drawing up the Behaviour Policy by stating the principles that the Governors expect to be followed.

The governors expect any policy or actions to be in accordance with their responsibility under equality legislation.

Principles:

- The children should be at the centre of everything that we do.
- Staff and volunteers should always set an excellent example to the children.
- All children, staff and visitors have the right to always feel safe at school.
- All behaviour should be supported in a planned and co-ordinated manner.
- Haughton School is an inclusive school. All members of the school community should be free from discrimination of any sort and treated with dignity and respect. Measures to protect children are set out in the Behaviour and Equality policies.
- Governors would like to see a wide range of rewards, consistently and fairly applied in such a way as to encourage and reward good behaviour around school.
- Consequences for unacceptable/poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and children and applied in accordance with the needs of the children.
- It is recognised that the use of rewards and consequences must have regard to the individual situation and the individual child. The Headteacher is expected to use her discretion in their use. Consequences should however be applied fairly, consistently, proportionally and reasonably, taking into the needs of individual children, and offering support as necessary
- The development of positive behaviour should be part of the work of all children.
- All staff at school will follow guidance on the use of reasonable force, all staff will be appropriately trained in the use of physical intervention and follow advice on de-escalation and behaviour management techniques.
- The school will work in partnership with parents and other professionals.
- The Governors strongly believe that exclusions, particularly those that are permanent, must only be used as the very last resort
- The Governors expect children and parents to cooperate to maintain an orderly climate for learning
- The Governors wish to emphasise that violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by children or parents towards the school's staff will not be tolerated. If a parent does not conduct himself/herself properly, the school may ban them from the school premises and, if the parent continues to cause disturbance, he or she may be liable to prosecution
- The school will fulfil its legal duties in respect of safeguarding
- Due to the age and needs of the children it is unlikely that staff will need to search them for prohibited items but if this is deemed necessary the Headteacher will inform the relevant authorities when items prohibited by law, weapons, non-prescription drugs etc are brought onto the school premises.