

Maiden Erlegh Trust

BEHAVIOUR AND EXCLUSIONS POLICY



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Including local arrangements in annexes for:

OAK TREE SCHOOL

Initial approval:	September 2015
Review frequency:	Annually
Date(s) reviewed:	November 2015, June 2016, May 2017, May 2018, May 2019, May 2020, February 2022, March 2023, February 2024, February 2025, October 2025, February 2026

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1: RATIONALE AND AIMS

Maiden Erlegh Trust has high expectations of the behaviour and attitudes of its pupils/students in all schools across the Trust. This includes whilst at school, on school trips/fixtures, and when representing the school and/or the Trust in any capacity, including walking to and from school, and on the internet.

How each school will respond when expectations are not met will vary according to individual school dynamics. School-specific approaches and information are annexed to this document.

This policy covers our shared values and principles, as well as confirming our approaches to any statutory situations.

Every member of The Trust and each school (pupils/students, staff, members of the School Advisory Board) has the right:

- To be able to work and learn to the best of their ability and without disruption.
- To work and learn in a healthy, safe, and pleasant environment.
- To experience success and fulfil their potential.
- To feel valued
- To feel supported
- To be treated with respect and good manners
- To be treated fairly

Every visitor has the right to feel welcomed and to be treated politely and with respect. Every member of the public who meets pupils/students outside school has the right to be treated politely and with respect.

Every pupil/student is expected to do their very best to meet the Trust's high expectations, to take responsibility for, and accept the consequences of any mistakes or lapses in judgement, and to work constructively with any support put in place to help them to do so.

Every member of staff has a responsibility for upholding the school's culture and ethos, modelling positive conduct and communication, and ensuring that this policy is implemented. It is never someone else's job - the standards that you walk past are the standards you accept.

Parents and carers are expected to support the Trust and its schools in their work to maintain positive and safe environments, including in their application of this and other relevant policies.

Definitions

Conduct

Poor conduct undermines the culture and climate of schools, for example by damaging: the orderly running of the school, the safety and well-being of others, the

working/learning environment, the Trust/school's reputation.

Behaviour for Learning

Pupils/students who display good behaviour for learning display a positive attitude e.g., they: listen and participate in lessons positively, manage and organise their learning well, welcome and respond positively to feedback, support others in their work and learning.

Unless specified, the term "behaviour" will refer both to conduct and behaviour for learning.

Bullying

This is any act carried out by a group or individual, repeatedly over time against a target who cannot defend themselves, that intentionally causes harm, either physically or emotionally.

Harassment

This is unwanted behaviour which you find offensive, or which makes you feel intimidated or humiliated. You do not need to have previously objected to something for it to be unwanted.

Proof

When establishing the facts in relation to a behaviour incident the School/Trust will apply the civil standard of proof, i.e., 'on the balance of probabilities' (it is more likely than not that a fact is true) rather than the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt'.

The Maiden Erlegh Trust Code of Conduct

All pupils/students are expected to behave in a manner which promotes the best that they can be and the best interests of their school community and the Trust community. They must:

- Treat everyone in the school community with kindness and respect.
- Move around the school and classrooms in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect the school environment and the property of others.
- Be attentive and polite in lessons and contribute positively.
- Work hard and do their best in class and on homework/independent study.
- Attend school regularly and arrive at school and lessons on time.
- Take responsibility for managing their own learning.
- Listen to members of staff and follow all reasonable instructions.
- Use digital/smart technology and the internet safely and positively.
- Dress smartly and appropriately at all times and ensure their appearance is in line with expectations

This applies to all learners in all settings.

2: CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Each school in the Trust will have a range of support strategies in place to prevent, support and respond to poor behaviour (including to prevent incidents escalating and thus to prevent the need for sanctions). We acknowledge that we must strike the right balance between prevention, support, and response.

Prevention

When pupils/students join a school, and at the start of each academic year, all pupils/students are reminded of the behaviour expected of them in classrooms, around school, when representing their school and when using Information Technology.

It is each headteacher's responsibility to ensure that these expectations are clear to all stakeholders (this will include education, publication on website, and reminders through bulletins and other ad-hoc communications).

Rewards

Each school will develop its own reward structure appropriate for its context. See Annex 4.

Children will be rewarded not only for academic effort and performance but also for aspects related to their Character Education: their attitudes, skills, and behaviours – such as self-control, confidence, social skills, motivation, and resilience aligning with our Trust values of Aim High, Be Inclusive and Work Together. These values underpin success in school and beyond. They include the ability to respond to setbacks, work well with others, build relationships, manage emotions, and cope with difficult situations.

Support

Each school will develop its own menu of support, appropriate for its context. See Annex 3.

We will always consider if there is an unidentified or undiagnosed need causing or exacerbating poor behaviour and if additional support is necessary.

Response

This policy's effectiveness is based on consistent, assertive, and positive school-wide behaviour management. All staff are responsible for managing behaviour, and the implementation of this policy, in each Trust school. The response to any poor behaviour aims to preserve the positive environment and dignity for everyone involved. We:

- see every child/young person as an individual worthy of respect and kindness
- do not punish the majority for the errors of a few
- praise more than we chastise

- praise in public and reprimand in private
- never make personal comments
- do not shout or sanction in anger

The person imposing any prevention/support strategies, or sanctions must inform the pupil/student and their parents in a timely way and explain the reasons for them.

Staff training

All staff are required to read and implement the Behaviour Policy before starting school and behaviour management strategies are covered with all members of staff at induction and refreshed during the year. In addition, all staff receive reminders of their school's local procedures in the relevant handbook.

Trainee teachers and Early Career Teachers (ECTs) receive bespoke sessions on behaviour management, and we provide coaches and mentors for colleagues who need support in this area.

Whole school training sessions cover a range of professional development sessions linked to behaviour management e.g., on Behaviour for Learning, working with SEND pupils/students, de-escalation techniques. In some schools we also provide training on advanced specialist strategies such as physical intervention and youth mental health first aid training is available to all staff.

3: SANCTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

The law allows schools to impose sanctions upon pupils/students for disciplinary reasons only. This includes breaches of the Behaviour Policy and in respect of those who fail to follow instructions. Sanctions can be imposed for misbehaviour in and out of school to such an extent as is reasonable.

When imposing a sanction, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- The sanction must be imposed by a member of staff authorised by the Headteacher.
- The decision to impose the sanction must be made on school premises or while the pupils/student is under the charge of the member of staff imposing the sanction.
- The imposition of the sanction must not breach any other legislation (for example, the Special Educational Need Code of Practice or the Equality Act 2010).
- The sanction must be reasonable and proportionate, taking into account the pupils/student's age, special educational needs, disability, or religious requirements

A pupil/student with a Special Educational Need or Disability is not exempt from school consequences or sanctions. However, their needs will be fully considered during any investigation, and any sanction will be applied in line with the school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, taking into account all appropriate reasonable adjustments.

Possible Sanctions

The majority of incidents will be resolved immediately, with a pupil/student responding to a reminder of the expectations. If the pupil/student fails to respond positively and fails to modify their behaviour, one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed:

- A verbal reprimand
- Extra work or repeating unsatisfactory work until it meets the required standard
- The setting of written tasks as sanction
- Loss of privileges – for instance the loss of a responsibility or not being able to participate in a non-uniform day
- Detention including during break-time, lunchtime, after school or on INSET day.
- A same day disciplinary detention
- School based community service
- A report card

When a pupil/student, having been sanctioned in this way, either refuses to comply or fails to modify their conduct/behaviour for learning, or when a pupil's/student's behaviour has become more serious, they will be referred to a school leader who may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- A longer disciplinary detention
- Multiple disciplinary detentions
- Multiple same day disciplinary detentions
- Extended days
- Withdrawal of free time at break, lunch, free period privileges in school
- A temporary or permanent ban from representing the school on trips, visits, or public activities
- A temporary or permanent ban from taking part in school social activities
- Withdrawal of an allocated place on a school trip, visit or other activity (forfeiting any monies paid for such activities)
- Imposed awareness and reflection work
- Confiscation of property (for which we reserve the right to search the pupil's/student's belongings)
- Withdrawal to work in another classroom, with another class
- Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) in school (pupil/student is withdrawn from lessons for a day or more)
- A Fixed Term Transfer (FTT) —a short transfer (usually one or two days) to another school to avoid a suspension
- A Suspension
- A Permanent Exclusion (PEX)

The Trust's approach to poor behaviour will endeavour to be positive and constructive at all times, with any form of alternative learning, suspension or exclusion being used as a last resort, or if a situation has arisen which demands strong and immediate action. Parents will not be involved in either the process or decision to sanction a pupil/student who is not their child, even where their child was a victim of that pupil's/student's misbehaviour.

Parents wishing to complain about any disciplinary sanction imposed on their child are able to do so under the Trust's published Complaints Policy.

For all sanctions resulting in a pupil/student being withdrawn from their usual timetable as part of a formal sanction (not including the investigation period) due consideration will be given to a pupil's/student's needs, protected characteristic features, safeguarding issues, and prior record, before making a final decision. The decision-making process and its conclusions will be recorded on the Trust "Sanction Consideration Form" and filed with the evidence of the investigation.

See Annex 2 for school specific stages of response to poor conduct and/or behaviour for learning.

4: DETENTION

Schools have the power to impose detention (including outside school sessions) upon any pupil/student under the age of eighteen years as a disciplinary penalty. All detentions will be recorded electronically on the pupil's/student's file.

Permitted Day

The detention can be on a "permitted day", which is any school day, any Saturday or Sunday (excluding the Saturday and Sunday immediately before or after a school holiday) or any INSET day except if it falls, on a day which precedes the first day of term, or after the last school day of the term.

Notice

Parents are not legally entitled to notice of a detention imposed upon their child before it can take place, although a school will usually notify the parents of any detention imposed outside normal school sessions, except in relation to detentions which take place immediately after school.

Parental Consent

Parental consent to a detention is not required. If parents want to raise an objection to a detention, they may do so under the Trust's published Complaints Policy. In those circumstances, the detention may be postponed until after the complaint has been considered. This is not guaranteed, however.

Travelling Arrangements

In addition to the normal rules regarding the imposition of sanctions, a school will take into account whether suitable travelling arrangements can reasonably be made by the parents where the pupil/student is very young, does not live within walking distance of the school and is reliant on school transport or public transport which is only available at specific times. Whether making alternative travel arrangements is inconvenient to the parents is not a factor which a school will take into account.

Lunch Time Detentions

If a school imposes a detention at lunch time, the school will ensure that the pupil/student is allowed a reasonable amount of time to eat, drink and use the toilet facilities.

Failure to Attend Detention

If a pupil/student fails to attend a detention without a reasonable explanation, they will normally receive a more severe sanction.

5: ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

Lesson Withdrawal

Lesson withdrawal is when the pupil/student is removed from a particular lesson for one or more lessons and placed elsewhere in the school, either on their own or with other pupils/students. This is a sanction for serious or persistent poor behaviour in a particular subject.

Alternative Learning Provision (ALP)

ALP is when a pupil/student is removed from his or her formal lessons for a limited period of time and placed elsewhere in the school and remains supervised. This is a sanction for serious or persistent poor behaviour. In such cases, provision will be made for the pupil/student to eat lunch and use the toilet facilities. The period of time a pupil/student may be sanctioned in this way is determined on a case-by-case basis. During this period, pupils/students will typically also undertake a programme of activities designed to enable them to reflect on their behaviour, its impact on them and others and how to reintegrate positively back into their school.

Modified Timetable (MTT)

A school may work with the parents and pupil/student to agree a modified timetable (usually for a fixed period of time) when the pupil's/student's day timings and/or timetable structure is adapted to improve engagement, provide time for therapeutic interventions, work experience, alternative courses etc. The MTT and its impact is reviewed regularly throughout the process

Fixed Term Transfer (FTT)

Schools within the Trust may impose a Fixed Term Transfer, whereby a pupil/student is required to attend an Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) at another school for a period of time determined on a case-by-case basis. This is a sanction for very serious or persistent school behaviour, usually as an alternative to suspension from school.

Direction to an alternative education establishment

A school may direct a pupil/student off-site for education to improve behaviour under Section 29A of the Education Act 2002. This is a temporary, non-permanent measure used when other interventions have failed, often to Alternative Provision (AP) or another school, and can be done without parental consent. This would be for an agreed time and reviewed regularly throughout the placement.

Alternative and Off-Site Provision

This is when a pupil/student attends a different setting for part of the week with the intention of improving their engagement in school, helping them to manage their emotions, and raising their self-esteem. This would be for an agreed time and reviewed

regularly throughout the placement. All of the settings used by Maiden Erlegh Trust schools are checked for compliance (eg Health and Safety, Insurance, Safeguarding Systems) and are regularly visited by a member of staff.

Managed Move

A managed move is a voluntary, but permanent transfer of a child from one mainstream school to another. It may also follow a period of off-site direction if a review determines that a move is in the child's best interests. All managed moves must be agreed by all parties, including parents and the new school's admission authority, and should only take place when it is clearly in the child's best interests. A Managed Move is typically used as a preventative measure to avoid permanent exclusion and to give the pupil/student a fresh start in a new environment.

6: SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

Any decision to send a pupil/student off-site (even at lunchtimes) is a suspension and will be dealt with formally in accordance with [Department for Education's statutory guidance August 2024](#). Only the Headteacher has the power to impose a suspension or permanent exclusion.

Our priority is to try to prevent pupils/students being suspended or excluded from school and whilst only ever used as a last resort, suspension or exclusion may be imposed for:

- Bringing a prohibited item into school
- Bringing a school or the Trust into disrepute
- Defiance of staff which jeopardises safety
- Discrimination on the grounds of membership of a protected group under the Equality Act
- Drug and alcohol related incidents (including legal highs, tobacco, and vaping)
- Failure to comply with the expectations of an ALP, or a Fixed Term Transfer
- Grooming for any purpose including sexual or criminal exploitation and radicalisation
- Inciting, encouraging or filming a harmful event and failing to intervene or help, despite having the ability to do so
- Malicious accusations
- Persistent and/or significant disruptive behaviour incompatible with the safe and efficient education of others
- Persistent or deliberate reckless or dangerous behaviour
- Physical assault of member of staff or visitor to a school/the Trust
- Physical assault of pupil/student
- Possession/use of a dangerous weapon (or implement/substance which could be construed as a dangerous weapon)
- Posting abusive, misleading, or illegal comments, images, or other content in emails or on social networking sites or blogs
- Refusal to Accept the Authority of the School
- Repeated bullying of any member of the school community
- Repeated harassment of any member of the school community

- Serious damage to property/vandalism/graffiti belonging to another pupil/student, a member of staff or visitor to a school/the Trust
- Sexual misconduct
- Significant or persistent breach of the Acceptable Use of Digital Technology Agreement
- Theft of property belonging to another pupil/student, member of staff or visitor to a school/the Trust
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour of any kind
- Verbal abuse of member of staff or visitor to a school/the Trust
- Violent disorder

This list is not exhaustive.

In the event of a suspension being issued during the school day, parents or carers will be called to collect their child. If a parent refuses to collect their child, or cannot be contacted within a reasonable timeframe, the school will follow safeguarding protocols. This may include contacting Social Care and/or the Police to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupil/student.

The Decision to Suspend/Exclude

Before taking the decision to suspend/exclude, the Headteacher will:

1. Conduct an investigation into the events leading up to the suspension/exclusion or delegate the investigation to another appropriate colleague.
2. The investigation will include:
 - Taking signed and dated witness statements from other pupils/students and members of staff.
 - If a witness is reluctant to sign a statement the interviewing staff member will produce a witness statement to confirm exactly what the witness said, and the witness will be given a chance to correct any mistakes.
 - In the event that a pupil/student refuses to make a statement this fact will be recorded formally by the interviewing member of staff.
 - Collecting any other relevant evidence possible (for example, photographs or CCTV footage)
 - Taking all reasonable steps to obtain a statement from the pupil/student at risk of suspension/exclusion.
3. The headteacher will assess the evidence and information obtained during the course of the investigation. When establishing the facts the headteacher must apply the civil standard of proof, i.e. 'on the balance of probabilities' rather than the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt.' This means that the headteacher should accept that something happened if it is more likely that it happened than that it did not happen.
4. He/she will ascertain whether there are any underlying causes for the behaviour
5. He/she will ascertain whether the pupil/student has a special educational need or disability or protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) and

whether a reasonable adjustment should be made.

6. He/she will decide whether a suspension (and, if so, the length of the suspension) or whether a permanent exclusion is merited.
7. He/she will decide whether a suspension or permanent exclusion is lawful, reasonable, fair, and proportionate.
8. A permanent exclusion will be imposed where there has been a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of this Behaviour Policy, and where allowing the pupil/student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil/student or others such as staff or pupils/students in the school.
9. The school reserves the right to impose a further consecutive suspension or a permanent exclusion for the same misbehaviour where further evidence comes to light after the original suspension.
10. In circumstances where an investigation cannot be carried out on the day of the incident, but there is enough immediate evidence to be satisfied that there has been a serious breach of the behaviour policy, then a suspension will be issued whilst the investigation is ongoing and may be revisited in the light of the evidence gathered, and this could involve a permanent exclusion.

Procedure for issuing a Suspension or Permanent Exclusion

When the Headteacher has made a decision to suspend/exclude, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The parents will be contacted on the same day verbally (usually by telephone) or by email if that is not possible. They will be informed of the period of the suspension or permanent exclusion and the reasons for it.
2. The parents will receive a formal notification letter confirming the period of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension, and all other statutory information required by the Regulations and Guidance. Every effort will be made to give a copy of this to the parent or pupil/student at the time the suspension/exclusion is issued.
3. Work will be sent home for the pupil/student to complete during the first five days of the suspension/exclusion. Where the suspension is for a period of more than five days, the school will arrange for alternative educational provision from the sixth consecutive day. For permanent exclusions, the local authority will arrange for alternative educational provision from the sixth day of the exclusion.
4. For a suspension which results in the total number of days suspended in that term **not exceeding 5 days**, the parents will be invited in the notification letter to make representations about suspension which, if received, will be considered by the School Advisory Board and, in appropriate cases, a copy of their comments will be placed on the pupil's/student's record. The School Advisory Board will not, however, have the power to direct reinstatement, and the pupil/student will not be readmitted without a re-integration meeting with a senior member of staff (and possibly a member of the School Advisory Board).
5. For a suspension which results in the total number of days suspended in that term **exceeding 5 days but not exceeding 15 days**, the parents will be invited in the

notification letter to make representations about the suspension which, if received, will result in the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee arranging a meeting **within 50 school days** to review the Headteacher's decision and decide whether to uphold the suspension or direct reinstatement, immediately or on a specified date. If the decision to suspend is upheld, the pupil/student will not be readmitted without a readmission meeting with a senior member of staff (and possibly a member of the School Advisory Board).

6. For a suspension which results in the total number of days suspended in that term **exceeding 15 days**, the parents will be invited in the notification letter to make representations about the suspension and, whether or not representations are received, the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee will arrange a meeting **within 15 school days** to review the Headteacher's decision and decide whether to uphold the suspension or direct reinstatement, immediately or on a specified date. If the decision to suspend is upheld, the pupil/student will not be readmitted without a readmission meeting with a senior member of staff (and possibly a member of the School Advisory Board).
7. For a **permanent exclusion**, the parents will be invited in the notification letter to make representations about the exclusion and, whether or not representations are received, the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee will arrange a meeting **within 15 school days** to review the Headteacher's decision and decide whether to uphold the exclusion or direct reinstatement, immediately or on a specified date.
8. For a suspension which results in the **loss of opportunity to take a national curriculum test or public examination**, the parents will be invited in the notification letter to make representations about the suspension and, whether or not representations are received, the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee will **take reasonably practicable steps to arrange a meeting before the test or examination is due to take place, and in any event within 15 school days** to review the Headteacher's decision and decide whether to uphold the suspension or direct reinstatement, immediately or on a specified date. If the decision to suspend is upheld, the pupil/student will not be readmitted without a readmission meeting with a senior member of staff (and possibly a member of the School Advisory Board).

The Pupil/Student's Involvement in Making Representations

Where representations are made by parents, the suspended/excluded pupil/student may also be involved by writing down anything that the pupil/student wants to say about the suspension/exclusion and attaching this to the parents' representations, which should be addressed to the Clerk to the School Advisory Board and either taken in to the School office, or sent by email to the Clerk to the Board of Trustees at trustees@maidenerlegtrust.org as soon as possible, and at least two days before the meeting, where relevant.

School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee Meeting

School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committees are typically made up of three School Advisory Board members. Where availability is limited one member of the Committee may be a Trustee.

When a School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee meeting is to take place, the parents are able to attend the meeting, and be accompanied by a representative (at their own expense) or a friend. The pupil/student may also attend if the parents so wish. The parents, pupil/student, representative or friend may make representations to the School Advisory Board at the meeting. The parents may also request that a representative of the local authority (and a representative of the local authority in the area in which the pupil/student lives, if this is a different area to the school) is invited to attend the meeting, as an observer only.

Where the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee direct that the pupil/student is to be reinstated, they will be reinstated by the Headteacher immediately or, if so directed, on the specified date, and the suspension/exclusion will be recorded as withdrawn on the pupil's/student's record.

Where the decision to suspend/exclude is upheld by the School Advisory Board Disciplinary Committee, the parents will be sent a notification letter informing them of this fact and the reasons for the decision, together with statutory information required under the Regulations and Guidance. In the case of permanent exclusions, this information will include full details of how the parents may ask for a review of the decision by an independent review panel.

Independent Review Panel

Independent Review Panels will be convened and run in accordance with Statutory Guidance: [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement Guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England September 2023](#)

Document Retention

The Permanent Exclusion file will be retained by the school until the child's 25th birthday.

Readmission

When a child returns to school following a suspension, there will be a readmission meeting involving key staff, the child and the parents. In the event that the parents are unable or choose not to attend, the readmission meeting will go ahead in their absence. The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Take in any outstanding work set for the period of the suspension
- Re-establish expectations for re-integration into the school community
- Review any support strategies in place and agree any amendments/additions including behaviour plans and risk assessments if relevant

If a child is unable /unwilling to commit to adhering to school rules and expectations, they will be readmitted to school, a risk assessment will be conducted, and mitigations may be put in place. They may face further suspensions or permanent exclusion in the event of further transgressions of the behaviour policy.

All readmission meetings will be followed up with parents in writing.

7: REASONABLE FORCE, RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Government guidance sets out how reasonable force or restraint can be used in schools. Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools 2026.

School staff have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils/students from causing injury to themselves or others, committing a criminal offence, damaging property, or causing disorder among pupils/students at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise, both on and off the school premises. Reasonable force means using the minimum force necessary and only as a last resort, taking account of the circumstances of each situation. It will only be used when other strategies such as de-escalation have failed or are not appropriate, and it will never be used as a punishment. Any use of reasonable force will be proportionate to the risk of harm and applied for the shortest possible time.

Examples of When Reasonable Force May Be Used

Reasonable force may be used to:

- prevent a pupil from injuring themselves or others, including stopping a physical assault or intervening where there is a risk of serious harm;
- prevent serious damage to property where this could pose a risk to safety;
- prevent a pupil from leaving the classroom or school premises when doing so would place them in danger;
- separate pupils who are fighting or behaving aggressively;
- remove a pupil from a situation where they are causing serious disruption and other strategies have been unsuccessful or are inappropriate;
- prevent behaviour that would seriously prejudice the maintenance of good order and discipline where there is a risk of harm.

What Reasonable Force May and May Not Include

Reasonable force may include physical intervention to guide, block, separate, or restrain a pupil in order to prevent injury, damage to property, or serious disruption, using the minimum force necessary for the shortest possible time. This can include holding or escorting a pupil away from a situation or using physical contact to prevent them from leaving a safe area when there is a risk of harm.

SEND Considerations

We recognise that pupils/students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) may display behaviours linked to communication difficulties, sensory needs, trauma, or unmet needs. Staff will take account of a pupil's age, understanding, needs, and individual circumstances when deciding whether to use reasonable force. Where possible, behaviour support plans, risk assessments, and positive handling plans will be in place and shared with relevant staff. De-escalation, reasonable adjustments, and preventative strategies will be prioritised, and any use of reasonable force involving a pupil with SEND will be carefully recorded, reviewed, and used to inform future support.

In our Special Schools and Alternative Provision, all staff receive specialised training in the use of restraint.

All incidents involving reasonable force will be recorded and parents/carers informed as soon as practicable. Each school will review their record of physical interventions on at least an annual basis.

Where a member of staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder – this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action. Suspension will not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.

Parental consent is not required for members of staff to use reasonable force on pupils/students. Parents who are unhappy that reasonable force has been used on their child are able to submit a formal complaint to the relevant school under its published Complaints Policy.

Use of Seclusion

Seclusion is defined as the supervised isolation of a pupil/student from others in a separate area for a limited period of time, where the pupil/student is prevented from leaving. The school recognises that seclusion is a restrictive practice and will only be used in exceptional circumstances where it is necessary to reduce a serious and immediate risk of harm to the pupil or others, and where less restrictive strategies have been ineffective or are inappropriate. Seclusion is not used as a punishment, for staff convenience, or to manage non-compliance or low-level disruption.

When seclusion is used, it will be for the shortest possible time, with the pupil/student continually monitored, and the environment will be safe, suitable, and proportionate to the pupil/student's age, needs, and circumstances. Parents/carers will be informed as soon as practicable, and all incidents will be recorded, reviewed, and used to inform future support and risk management.

SEND Considerations

Where a pupil with SEND is at increased risk of requiring seclusion, this will be addressed through an individual behaviour support plan, risk assessment, and reasonable adjustments in line with the Equality Act 2010. Seclusion will not be used in a way that discriminates against a pupil or replaces appropriate support, and any use involving a pupil with SEND will be carefully reviewed to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

We recognise that it is important for some children, to have free access to a secure, calm space for self-regulation when they need it. When used in this way, the incident will not be recorded as seclusion.

All incidents involving seclusion will be recorded and parents/carers informed as soon as practicable. Each school will review their record of seclusions on at least an annual basis.

8: TYPES OF INCIDENT

Pupils'/students' behaviour outside the school gate (including on the internet)

When a school is made aware of pupils/students behaving inappropriately or in a way which is unsafe outside school, their parents will be informed, and advised as to how they can support their child in the community and/or online. There will be an expectation on parents to support the school in disciplinary matters.

Non-criminal poor behaviour and/or bullying which occurs off the school premises including online, and which is witnessed by a staff member or reported to the school, may also be considered as grounds for sanctions as outlined within this policy. In such cases, incidents will be reviewed, and sanctions imposed in the same way as if the incident had happened in school (including up to permanent exclusion).

Pupils/students may be disciplined for poor behaviour:

- when taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity
- when travelling to or from school
- when wearing school uniform
- when in some other way identifiable as a pupil/student at the school
- that could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- that poses a threat to another pupil/student
- that could adversely affect the reputation of the school or Trust

Breaches of the Law

The school has the power to impose an appropriate disciplinary sanction on a pupil/student who has misbehaved in a way which could amount to a criminal offence (for example, theft, physical or sexual assault, criminal damage, possession or supply of prohibited substances, harassment, or public order offences). This applies to misbehaviour on the school's premises or outside school, and a sanction can be imposed even where the pupil/student was not identifiable as a pupil/student of the school at the time.

There may be occasions when the police decide to take no formal action against a pupil/student, but this does not always mean that the police have cleared the pupil/student of guilt – they may be satisfied that an offence was committed but have decided it was not in the public interest to take formal action. The school will therefore carry out its own investigation (applying the civil standard of proof 'on the balance of probability', rather than the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt') and may impose a sanction where it is reasonable, fair, and proportionate to do so.

The Trust and/or the relevant school will report any behaviour which may amount to a criminal offence to the police (and in most cases to Social Services) and co-operate fully with any subsequent police investigation or prosecution by providing all relevant information.

If a child is found in possession of a weapon (including a blade) or a controlled

substance the Trust and/or relevant school will automatically report them to the police and in most cases to social care.

If the school is concerned of potential links to radicalisation, criminal exploitation, or gangs they will liaise with the appropriate agency.

Possession of Sexual Imagery

Incidents will always be reported to the police and social care if:

- The children sharing the images are under 13
- The images involve sexual acts and any child depicted is under 13
- It involves an adult
- There is evidence to suggest the child has been coerced, pressured or exploited
- There are concerns over the child's capacity to consent
- The imagery is not in line with their developmental age

Mobile phones and smart technology

The use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality (eg the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) is prohibited throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. This is in line with DfE guidance [Mobile phones in schools January 2026](#) and is to reduce distraction and disruption.

When used at a time or in a way which is restricted, the mobile telephone/device will be considered a "prohibited item" banned by the Trust/school, and subject to the normal rules on searching, seizure, retention, or destruction.

A pupil's/student's mobile telephone/device may be confiscated as a disciplinary sanction where the policy has clearly been breached, for instance where a mobile phone is used by a pupil/student or is heard ringing in a pupil/student's bag. In such cases, the mobile telephone/device will be retained until it can be collected by the pupil/student and/or parent after a period of time agreed by the school. This may be up to the end of the current term.

Whilst schools are expected to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day to reduce distraction and disruption, they must comply with their other legal duties such as the duty to make reasonable adjustments where necessary. There may be other exceptional circumstances where schools will consider making adaptations to policy for specific pupils.

Additionally, separate rules may apply on the use of mobile phones on residential trips or trips outside of the normal school day.

Sixth form students will be permitted access to their mobile phone at certain and limited times and locations, without compromising the school's policy on the use of mobile phones for other pupils/students.

Please see Annex 1 for local arrangements.

School uniform (code of dress in the Sixth Form)

Pupils/students are expected to wear the relevant school uniform/code of dress and abide by the school's expectations of appearance and self-presentation including to and from school.

These are made clear on the website, and we expect parents to support our expectations. When there are valid reasons for a pupil/student not being able to comply for a short period of time, parents are expected to confirm the reasons for this in writing, and to rectify the situation in the shortest period of time possible.

Please see Annex 1 for local arrangements.

Malicious allegations

Malicious allegations against staff are very serious, and we reserve the right to impose any sanction up to and including a permanent exclusion on any pupil/student who is found to have made a malicious allegation.

In addition, where the pupil/student remains at the school, they are likely to be required to undertake some supportive and educational work. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for the child to take part in a process of restorative justice or mediation with the member of staff in order for all parties to be able to move forward. We would expect parents to support this.

Vandalism, Damage or Theft

In the event that a pupil/student is found to have caused damage as a result of wilful or reckless behaviour we reserve the right to ask the parent/carer for a contribution towards the cost of replacement/repair. This applies to damage to the school building and its contents as well as property belonging to another pupil/student, a member of staff, or a visitor. This applies equally to damage caused on school trips or visits.

In the event that a pupil/student is found to have stolen property we reserve the right to ask the parent/carer for a contribution towards the cost of replacement.

Students who are intoxicated

Any student who is believed to be intoxicated will be sent home and this will be recorded as a formal suspension from school. If a student is unwell, medical attention will be sought or recommended.

9: THE POWER TO SEARCH

Any decision to search a pupil/student will be dealt with in accordance with Department for Education's guidance: [Searching, screening and confiscation July 2022](#):

A school can search any pupil/student or their possessions for any item with the

pupil's/student's consent. If a member of staff asks a pupil/student to empty their pockets or bag, and they do so, this will be deemed to have consented to being searched. If a pupil/student refuses to be searched, they will be deemed to be in breach of the Behaviour Policy and could be suspended from school.

The school can require pupils/students to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon. In accordance with the guidance, if a pupil/student refuses to be screened in this way, an assessment will be made as to whether it is necessary to carry out a search. If the pupil/student refuses a search, they may be sanctioned in line with the school's behaviour policy. During this time the pupil may be supervised and kept away from other pupils. An assessment may also be made as to whether it is appropriate to use reasonable force to conduct the search.

'Possessions' means any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control – this includes desks, lockers, and bags.

Prohibited Items

A school's Headteacher and members of staff authorised by the Headteacher have the right to search a pupil/student or their possessions, without consent, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil/student may be in possession of a "prohibited item". If a member of staff suspects that a pupil/student is in possession of a "prohibited item" and the pupil/student refuses to empty their pockets or bag, the school can impose an appropriate sanction for this refusal.

A school's Headteacher and members of staff authorised by the Headteacher have the right to use such force as is reasonable, given the circumstances, when conducting a search for a 'prohibited item'.

The "prohibited items" are:

- Abusive or racially inflammatory images or texts
- Acids or toxins
- Alcohol
- 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, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil/student themselves).
- Any item which may be being used, or have been used to coerce, groom, bribe or intimidate others
- E-cigarette or vaping items
- E-scooters
- Fireworks
- Controlled substances (including illegal or prescription drugs and associated paraphernalia)
- Knives/blades or weapons
- Laser pens or similar
- Legal highs

- Literature or images considered to be purporting extremist views
- Mobile telephones/electronic devices when used in a way that contravenes the school rules
- Pornographic images
- Replica or toy weapons
- Stolen items
- Tobacco products, lighters/matches, and cigarette papers

Banned Items

A school and/or the Trust reserves the right to ban other items if their use or dissemination becomes disruptive or unsafe to stakeholders, or if they are considered offensive. Headteachers and authorised staff can search for items banned by the school as identified in the local school rules as an item which may be searched for. Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

Authorised Members of Staff

Searches will only be conducted by members of staff authorised by the Trust and/or Headteacher of a school. In each school, the following members of staff are authorised to conduct searches:

- All members of the Senior Leadership Team
- All members of the Inclusion/Behaviour Team
- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Pastoral middle leaders
- Phase leaders
- Family Support Advisor
- The Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead
- The Executive Director of Education
- The Chief Executive Officer
- Any other member of staff authorised by the Headteacher

Searches

In almost all cases, the member of staff conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil/student being searched; and the search will be conducted in the presence of another member of staff acting as a witness. If possible, they will also be the same sex as the pupil/student.

In rare cases, however, where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a risk of serious harm to the pupil/student or another person if the search is not conducted immediately and there is not sufficient time to summon another member of staff, the search may be carried out by a member of staff who is the opposite sex of the pupil/student and without a witness present.

Members of staff can refuse to conduct a search, even where they are authorised to do so by the Headteacher, and the Headteacher cannot compel any member of staff to conduct a search.

There is no requirement for parents to be notified in advance of a search, and parental consent is not required.

A strip search is a search involving the removal of more than outer clothing. Strip searches on school premises can only be carried out by police officers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code A and in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code C. While the decision to undertake the strip search itself and its conduct are police matters, school staff retain a duty of care to the pupil(s) involved and should advocate for pupil wellbeing at all times.

Where a pupil/student fails to cooperate with a search for any item (including items prohibited by the school), this will be regarded as defiance and a disciplinary sanction imposed, in addition to any disciplinary sanction for other misbehaviour leading to the search.

All members of staff conducting a search of a pupil/student will have due regard to the pupil's/student's expectations of privacy during the search. The pupil/student may be asked to remove outer clothing but will not be asked to expose their underwear. Outer clothing also includes hats, footwear, gloves, and scarves, as well as trousers when worn over other trousers/jogging bottoms.

The school will notify the pupil's/student's parents when a "prohibited item" or a "banned" item has been found.

Confiscation of Items Found

A school can seize, retain, or destroy any 'prohibited item' found following a search. A school can also seize any item found in any circumstances which is considered to be harmful or detrimental to the school and/or Trust, or any item which is evidence in relation to a criminal offence. In addition, a school can confiscate, retain, or dispose of any item belonging to a pupil/student as a disciplinary sanction for misconduct by the pupil/student, where reasonable to do so.

Where the member of staff is not sure whether a substance found is illegal or not, but has reason to believe that it may be an illegal substance, it will be treated as an illegal substance.

In determining whether there is a "good reason" not to hand items over to the police, or for not erasing data or files from electronic devices, the member of staff will take into account all relevant circumstances and use their professional judgement, including considering the value of a stolen item, and whether an item can be safely disposed of by the school.

Abusive or racially inflammatory images or texts	These will either be handed to the police or destroyed. If the image or text is electronic, it will be deleted from the device and from the cloud if it is not to be handed over to the police, before retaining or disposing of the device, or returning it to the pupil/student who owns it.
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Acids or toxins	Where acids or toxins are found, these will either be handed to the police or destroyed.
Alcohol	Where alcohol is found, the school will seize and dispose of it. Alcohol will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
Any item which may be being used, or have been used to coerce, groom, bribe or intimidate others	Any item falling into this category will be seized and handed to the police.
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, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student/pupil themselves).	Any item falling into this category may be delivered to the police or returned to the owner. It may also be retained or disposed of.
E-cigarette or vaping items	Where these items are found, the school will seize these and dispose of them. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
E-scooters	Where these are found, they will be retained by the school and returned only to a parent.
Mobile telephones/electronic devices when used in a way that contravenes the school rules	Where mobile telephones or electronic devices are seized, the Headteacher or authorised member of staff may search the device if they reasonably suspect that there is data or a file on the device which has been, or could be, used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching, to break the school rules or to commission a crime. They can delete the data/file including from the cloud if it is not to be handed over to the police, before retaining or disposing of the device, or returning it to the pupil/student who owns it.
Fireworks/caps	Where fireworks are found, the school will seize these and dispose of them. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
Controlled substances (including illegal or prescription drugs and associated paraphernalia)	Where controlled drugs are found, the school will seize these and hand them over to the police as evidence as soon as possible and co-operate fully with any subsequent investigation or prosecution. Where there is a good reason for doing so, the school may dispose of the controlled drugs instead of handing them over to the police.

Knives/blades or weapons	Where knives/blades or weapons are found, the school will seize these and hand them over to the police as evidence as soon as possible and co-operate fully with any subsequent investigation or prosecution.
Laser pens or similar	Where these items are found, the school will seize these and dispose of them. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person
Legal highs	Where other substances are found which are not believed to be controlled drugs but are believed to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline the school will dispose of them. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
Literature or images considered to be purporting extremist views	These will either be handed to the police or destroyed. If the image or text is electronic it will be deleted from the device and from the cloud if it is not to be handed over to the police, before retaining or disposing of the device, or returning it to the pupil/student who owns it.
Pornographic images	Where pornographic videos or images are found, the school will seize these and dispose of them. Electronic imagery Images will be permanently deleted from the device and from cloud storage. Where the pornography is extreme or involves children, the school will hand the video/images over to the police and co-operate fully with any subsequent investigation or prosecution. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
Replica or toy weapons	These will either be handed to the police or destroyed. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.
Stolen items	Where items which are believed to be stolen are found, the school will seize these and hand them over to the police as evidence as soon as possible and support any subsequent investigation or prosecution. Where there is a good reason for doing so (for example, where there is no criminal investigation), the school may return the stolen items to their rightful owner instead of handing them over to the police.
Tobacco products, lighters/matches, and cigarette papers	Where these items are found, the school will seize these and dispose of them. They will not be returned to the pupil/student, their parents, or any other person.

Liability for Confiscated Items

Members of staff who have seized a “prohibited item” have a defence to any proceedings brought against the school or Trust or themselves in relation to the loss of, or damage to, any item which they have confiscated in accordance with the procedure outlined in this Behaviour Policy. Whilst the school will ensure that reasonable care is taken of seized items, the school will not accept any liability for the loss of, or damage to, any items which have been confiscated in accordance with the procedure outlined in this Behaviour Policy.

10: MONITORING

School level rewards, support strategies and sanctions (including all detentions) are recorded centrally as are all attendance records.

As part of each school's termly review of its school improvement plan review and school evaluation, senior leaders scrutinise a range of data relating to behaviour and attitudes (including suspensions/exclusions) to determine how effective strategies are and the impact they are having. Where necessary, strategies are adapted, and interventions put in place.

The relevant Trust leaders review information relating to behaviour across all schools in the Trust, as well as any particular strengths, and strategies for further improvement, presenting this to the relevant Trust Committee. Where necessary, the Trust Committee can direct schools to undertake further work in respect of behaviour.

OAK TREE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR ANNEX PURPOSE AND ETHOS

This Behaviour Annex sets out Oak Tree School's approach to understanding, supporting and responding to behaviour. It is underpinned by trauma-informed practice and CPI's Care, Welfare, Safety and Security® framework. Our aim is to protect dignity, build trusting relationships and support Students to regulate, learn and thrive.

At Oak Tree School, behaviour is understood as a form of communication. We respond with curiosity, consistency and compassion, always seeking to understand the underlying need rather than focusing on punishment.

Behaviour Principles

Our approach is guided by the following principles:

- Behaviour communicates unmet need or distress rather than deliberate defiance.
- Relationships and emotional safety come first.
- Expectations are clear, consistent and developmentally appropriate.
- De-escalation is always prioritised.
- Physical intervention is a last resort.
- All behaviour support is personalised through Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs) see **Fig 1**

Student Expectations

Students are supported to:

- Treat themselves and others with kindness and respect.
- Move safely around the school.
- Respect the school environment and property.
- Engage positively in learning.
- Follow reasonable instructions from staff.
- Use technology safely and appropriately.
- Attend school regularly and on time.
- Dress in line with school expectations, with reasonable adjustments for sensory needs. Expectations and responses are applied fairly and consistently, with reasonable adjustments made to meet students' individual needs.

Personal Technology Use

- Mobile phones/Personal smart devices must be on 'silent' and put away in the office upon arrival.

- Students are not permitted to use Mobile phones/personal smart devices during lessons unless used as an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) device. But may have access to them when travel training – depending on the stage of development and Head Teacher’s discretion.
- Students must not photograph, video or audio record other students or staff.
- Students must not access inappropriate websites or social media channels using their mobile phones/Personal smart devices whilst on the school site.
- Students are always encouraged to keep themselves ‘cyber safe’.
- The school does not accept responsibility for any loss of, theft of or damage to a student’s mobile phone/Personal smart devices.

Trauma-Informed Behaviour Response Framework

Staff are trained to use the CPI Crisis Development Model™ to guide staff responses:

Behaviour Level	Staff Response
Anxiety	Offer support, clear visuals, routine, space and time.
Defensive	Set clear, consistent limits with calm tone. Offer choices and redirection.
Risk Behaviour	Implement appropriate Safety Interventions. Seek support. Maintain dignity.
Tension Reduction	Reconnect and rebuild. Restore trust through Therapeutic Rapport.

Trauma can affect Students differently some show externalised distress through noncompliance or aggression, while others internalise struggles, appearing withdrawn or robotically compliant through fear. Students who have experienced trauma may be in a constant state of hypervigilance and not feel safe enough to learn, with their executive function affected.

Staff use a relational approach, including PACE (Playful, Accepting, Curious, Empathetic), and allow processing time, visual supports and co-regulation strategies.

Encouraging Positive Behaviour

Positive behaviour is reinforced through:

- Specific praise and encouragement.
- Modelling by staff.
- Clear routines and visual structures.
- Individual and class reward systems.

- Parental partnership and shared strategies

Rewards are differentiated and developmentally appropriate, ranging from visual token systems to age-appropriate privileges. Individual progress and success criteria determine access to rewards, and rewards are not withdrawn due to periods of dysregulation. Choosing time for younger students and free time for older students is an effective, structured way of supporting individuals with autism who may have a very personal range of interests for positive behaviour. Now and next rewards are used where appropriate. Key stage 4 and 5 students are encouraged to earn age-appropriate privileges, such as breaks off site, if this is appropriate and agreed with parents.

Secondary classes celebrate Students who show our school values, like kindness, resilience, or teamwork. Each week, one Student per class is chosen as a *Values Victor*, they'll receive a small token and a card sent home to share their achievement with family. Hot chocolate with SLT is an optional reward for this if the student wishes to. The focus is always on effort and behaviour, not just outcomes.

Classes often work together towards a shared experience, like a trip or special activity at the end of half term. These are used to celebrate everyone's efforts and build a sense of community and pride, not as a 'prize' for individual behaviour. Oak Tree School acknowledges that success looks different for every Student. Individual progress measures determine eligibility for half-termly rewards and is not withdrawn due to periods of difficulty or dysregulation.

Home support:

Class teams often work with parents to ensure there is a consistent behaviour approach between home and school. This can be in the form of home visits, visual supports, or short, structured rewards. There is also behaviour training for parents to help them to understand the function of behaviour and implement strategies to support this.

Responding to Behaviour

Level of Behaviour	Response/Action
Low-Level Disruption	<p>Supported through reminders and appropriate interventions before considering sanctions.</p> <p>These interventions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual or non-verbal prompts • Redirection or sensory breaks • Proximity support or attention diversion • Curriculum adjustments • Trained staff who can see signs of dysregulation and intervene early • Specialist SALT & OT strategies
Escalation or Persistent Behaviour	<p>Support continues; if behaviour persists, logical and proportional sanctions may be considered following support and reminders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success reminders (visual support as needed) • Logical/natural consequences • Restorative reflection time • Change of environment • Report cards
Significant or Ongoing Risk Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maiden Erlegh Trust interventions • Alternative Provision or curriculum considered • Review of behaviour plan with professionals • Behaviour intervention meetings (BIM) with parents and the multidisciplinary team • Emergency Annual Review • Possible suspension as a last resort

Suspension Process

Suspension will only be considered as an absolute last resort where:

- All other interventions and support have been exhausted
- The student's behaviour poses a serious and immediate risk to themselves or others
- Remaining in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others

Before any suspension is considered, we will:

- Have a discussion with the team around the child
- Explore alternative provision or curriculum adjustments
- Review whether additional reasonable adjustments can be made
- Consider whether an Emergency Annual Review is needed Decision-Making
- The Headteacher will determine whether a suspension is necessary. All decisions will be made therapeutically, considering the student's special educational needs, disabilities, and the context of the incident.
- Any internal isolation must be authorised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with the Pastoral Team, based on the individual child and the circumstances of the incident. Communication
- **Internal isolation:** Internal isolation may include working separately from their peers for an agreed period by the team around the student. The class teacher will inform parents on the same day.
- **Suspension:** The School Business Manager will send a formal letter to parents on the day the decision is made

Student Support

The student must be informed of the decision sensitively and age-appropriately. A restorative debrief will take place with a trusted adult using the school's debrief form, adapted to the student's needs. Staff should liaise with the therapy team for social stories or visual resources where appropriate.

Reintegration

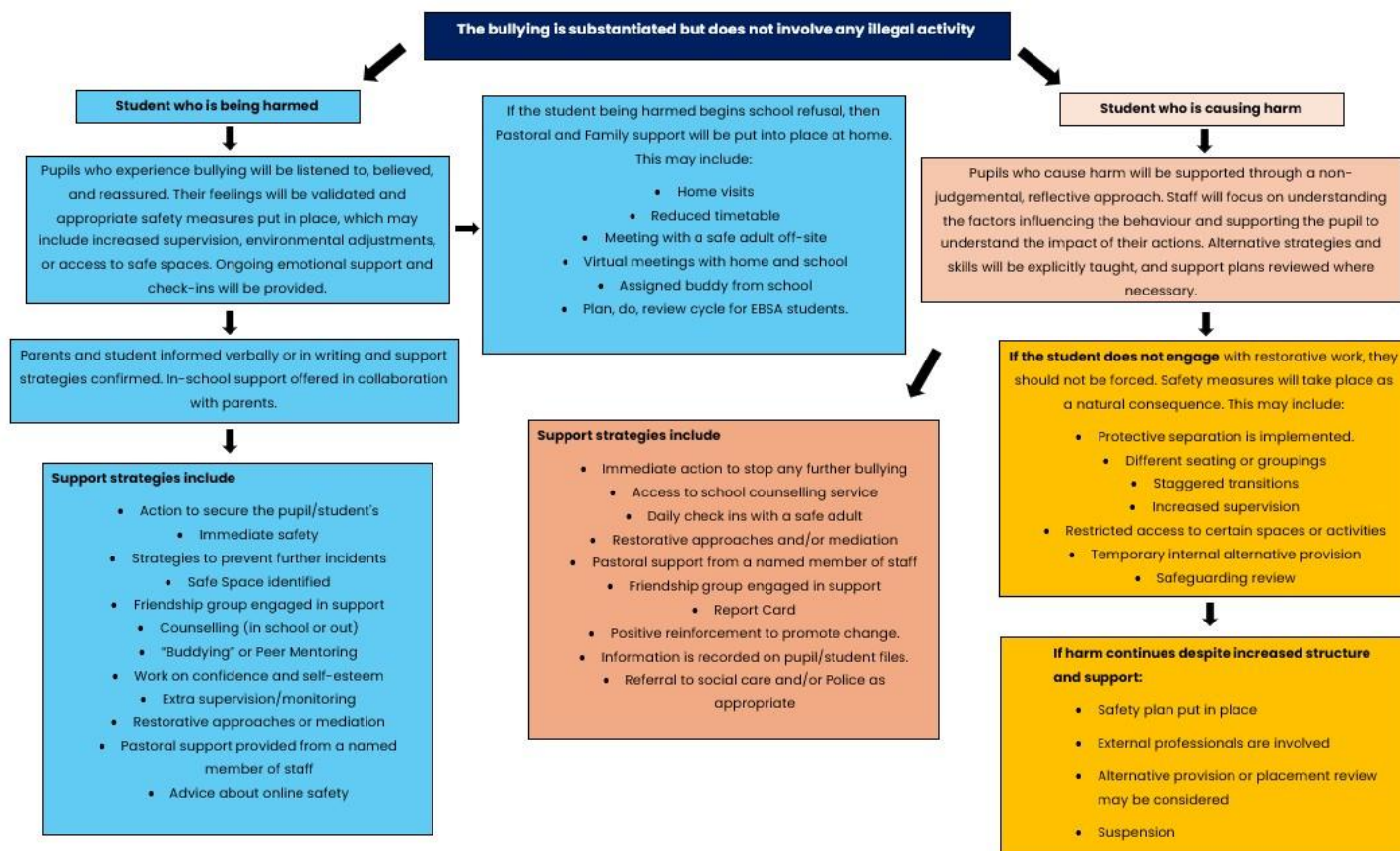
A reintegration meeting must take place with the student and parents before the student returns to school. The meeting will discuss what led to the suspension, identify strategies and support moving forward, and review the Student's Behaviour Support Plan. The therapy team and Pastoral Team will create an individualised reintegration plan, which may include visual supports, adjusted timetables, or additional staff support.

In the event of a suspension being issued during the school day, parents or carers will be called to collect their child. If a parent refuses to collect their child, or cannot be contacted within a reasonable timeframe, the school will follow safeguarding protocols. This may include contacting Social Care and/or the Police to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the student/student.

Anti-Bullying

Incidences of bullying are recorded by all staff and monitored by the DSL and Pastoral Teams; all records are taken seriously. When bullying is found to be substantiated, both the student causing harm and the student being harmed will be supported in the following ways:

Substantiated Bullying at Oak Tree



Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs)

Each Student has an individual BSP outlining:

- Triggers and early warning signs.
- Prevention and de-escalation strategies
- Regulation supports.
- Any agreed safety interventions.
- Staff response language.

BSPs are created collaboratively with families and reviewed regularly and following incidents. All BSPs are working documents and are reviewed at least once per term.

Following any significant incident

- Following any change in circumstances
- At Annual Review
- When requested by parents

Oak Tree School recognises its legal duty under the [Equality Act 2010](#) to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational

needs. We will always consider whether a Student's SEN or disability has contributed to their behaviour before applying any sanction. Where behaviour is caused by a Student's SEN or disability, we will not apply sanctions that would constitute discrimination. All behaviour responses are differentiated to meet individual needs through Behaviour Support Plans.

Planned interventions may include agreed physical safety strategies where appropriate. These are used only in line with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and least restriction, and in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance [*Restrictive Interventions, including the use of Reasonable Force in Schools \(2025\)*](#).

Behaviour Support Plan


	Name: JoBl (Joe)	Anxiety	Supportive
	Form: Birch	Joe will start to cry, point and say he wants to go home/ request what he isn't allowed access to. Joe becomes anxious when there is unexplained change, wet weather and he is unable to complete a task independently.	Reassure Joe. Use the visuals in class to help him where applicable. Use a suitable social story to support his understanding. Getting eye level will help Joe engage with you and help reassure him.
	Key adults: Class team initials		
	Last updated: 5.9.24		
Engagement	Communication	Defensive	Directive
Joe likes to be active and enjoys the adults' attention. Joe can sit and attend to individual work tasks and occasionally needs more support during group activities to stay on task.	Joe is an emerging communicator with a good level of verbal processing skills. He can follow multi-step instructions and has a communication iPad as an alternative means of communication.	Joe will put his t-shirt in his mouth and start to hit his thighs. Joe also displays this behaviour when he is overstimulated. He will also elbow the tabletops with a lot of force.	Take him for a break on the sofa or outside where applicable. Use the break visual on the door to generalise the skill of asking for a break. Use a visual to support his understanding, then he will often calm himself down after 2 minutes or so of venting if you tactically ignore him.
Regulation	Independent Skills		
Joe likes to do meticulous tasks (cutting and sticking, playdough, colouring etc.) and this helps him to regulate when he is not ready to work. His interests include Talking Tom, Minions and Kinder eggs.	Joe can work independently when given clear instructions alongside a visual 'first, next, then' to complete the steps of an activity.		
Triggers	Safety Interventions	Risk behaviour	Safety Interventions
Unexpected/Unexplained change of routine, wet/dirty clothes/shoes, restricted access to his preferred activity/objects.	Distraction, redirection and humour work effectively for non- restrictive Safety Intervention. Risk behaviour is unlikely, however, a standing Low-Level restriction would be effective for Joe should Safety intervention be needed.	Joe may drop all of his weight onto staff and start to hit his thighs. Joe may push his peers but is unlikely to hurt them.	Remind Joe of the rules and end his current choosing/preferred activity to enforce that he has made the wrong choice. 'There is no pushing. Pushing makes your friends sad'.
Offsite Support	Health/Medical Needs	Tension Reduction	Therapeutic Rapport
Joe has little safety awareness out in the community and currently uses a wrist strap while on trips. Joe has consistently shown compliance to staff while out on trips.	Joe has a vegetarian diet.	Joe will cry and ask for 'Mummy, Daddy, Anagh, me, home.' Tactile and will feel sad 'Joe crying'. Joe will use a 5 minute timer with a familiar adult out of class to self-regulate and return to class.	Give Joe a choice of two options 'do you need a break or are you ready to go back to class?' Remind him of what he is working towards. Joe will apologise if applicable to the necessary people when he is ready to follow instructions again.

Figure 1. Behaviour Support Plan example.

Restrictive Physical Intervention

Restrictive physical intervention is used only as a last resort and solely to prevent serious harm. It is never used as a punishment or as a routine behaviour management strategy. It may be used to prevent a student from harming themselves or others, committing a criminal offence, or causing serious damage to property. Supportive physical contact used to aid learning, regulation, or transitions does not constitute restraint and is carried out respectfully and, where possible, with the student's consent.

Different forms of physical intervention are outlined in the table below. This distinguishes between restrictive interventions, which limit movement or are used to disengage from dangerous or harmful physical contact, and non-restrictive methods that do not restrict a student's freedom of movement.

All staff act in accordance with DfE statutory guidance. Restrictive physical intervention refers to the use of physical contact by staff to prevent a student from causing harm to themselves or others, committing a criminal offence, causing serious damage to property, or seriously disrupting good order and discipline.

Restrictive physical interventions involve the proportionate use of force to control a person's behaviour and may include bodily contact, mechanical aids, or changes to the environment. All interventions taught within the Safety Intervention programme are underpinned by a team-based approach, ensuring the Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security of Students and staff when physical intervention is required.

Types of physical restraint	Bodily contact	Mechanical	Environmental Change
Non-Restrictive	Manual guidance to assist a person walking.	Use of a protective helmet to prevent self-injury	Removal of the cause of distress, for example adjusting temperature, light or background noise
Restrictive	Restrictive Holding of a person's hands to prevent them hitting someone	Use of splints to prevent self-injury	Forcible seclusion or the use of locked doors.

Seclusion

The DfE Guidance allows for the use of seclusion in schools. Seclusion is defined as a non-disciplinary intervention involving keeping a student confined to a place away from others and preventing them from leaving to protect others from harm when a student is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. If a student is supported to access a calm space and they choose to remain there, this is considered self-regulation, not seclusion. We proactively utilise calm rooms to promote self

regulation away from others when dysregulated. Students will never be isolated, confined or excluded from learning as a punishment.

Any intervention must be:

Necessary and proportionate.

- The least restrictive option available.
- Used for the shortest time possible.
- Focused solely on safety.

Minimum Staffing and Safeguarding

Wherever possible, a minimum of two members of staff should be involved in any restrictive physical intervention. This supports safer practice, accountability and safeguarding. However, staff must not delay intervention if doing so would increase risk.

We recognise that children with special educational needs or disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. We will always consider whether safeguarding concerns may be causing or contributing to behaviour changes or incidents. We will not assume that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood changes or injury relate solely to the child's condition without further exploration. Any safeguarding concerns will be addressed as a priority through our safeguarding procedures and the Maiden Erlegh Trust's procedures for dealing with allegations against employees and adults working or volunteering in schools policy.

Recording, Review and Aftercare

All incidents involving restrictive intervention and/or seclusion are recorded on the same day. Under DfE guidance, seclusion is considered a restrictive physical intervention and must be recorded as such. Where appropriate, incidents are reviewed by the DSL or a member of the safeguarding team. Incidents are written up and Parents or Carers are informed as soon as reasonably possible. A record of communication will be on ClassCharts attached to the recorded incident.

Following the incidents, the school will:

- Check Student and staff wellbeing.
- Provide medical support if required.
- Hold reflective, non-blaming debriefs.
- Review strategies and update BSPs if necessary.
- Repair and rebuild relationships.

All behaviour incidents are recorded with the student's known protected characteristics. The Pastoral Lead analyses the behaviour logs on ClassCharts weekly for trends in behavioural outcomes across different groups to ensure our approach is equitable and doesn't disadvantage Students with particular characteristics.

We recognise that for Students with Autism and other complex needs, exclusion can be particularly harmful to their wellbeing and educational progress. We will work in partnership with parents, the local authority and other professionals to find effective solutions always.

Partnership with Families

Oak Tree School works closely with families to ensure consistency and shared understanding. Parents are involved in planning, reviewing and supporting behaviour strategies, particularly where risk or restrictive interventions are involved.

Training and Oversight

Staff receive regular training in trauma-informed practice, CPI and autism-sensitive approaches by internal and external trainers. Behaviour practice is monitored and reviewed continuously to ensure safety, consistency and continuous improvement.

This annex should be read alongside the Maiden Erlegh Trust Behaviour Policy, Uniform Policy, Safeguarding Policy, individual Behaviour Support Plans and Risk Assessments.