

## **BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE AT BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL: GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (September 2025)**

At Brookfields School, the staff and Academy Council share common values, which include a commitment to assist our pupils:

- To develop independence skills for use beyond school life
- To experience valued involvement in the school and within the wider community
- To develop skills necessary to make informed choices, which others will respect, and to communicate these choices to others
- To make and maintain social relationships and friendships
- To continue in the ongoing process of self-discovery
- To reduce incidences of behaviour which adversely impact on one's own physical or emotional wellbeing, or on the emotional or physical wellbeing of others

At Brookfields School, we believe that challenging behaviour is often the result of an unmet need and/or difficulties in communicating those needs to others, and as such we aim to respond to such individual challenges at the individual level. By identifying difficult behaviours, considering physical and sensory issues, addressing mismatches in the environment and focusing on a person's highly individualised strengths and needs, we aim to design programmes to teach more effective means of communication, more socially appropriate interactions with others, and greater tolerance of the different environments and demands which will be encountered in everyday life.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, we aim to enhance the life experiences of all of our pupils so that nobody is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of their differing needs, behavioural or otherwise. In order to fulfil this aim, we adopt the principles and practices of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) approaches to enable people to overcome behaviour challenges and ultimately live the life they want to live. (For more information about PBS, please refer to our school's Positive Behaviour Support Policy).

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is widely acknowledged to be the most effective way to support people whose behaviour is challenging to the families, carers, and services that support them. Since the Department of Health launched its "Positive and Safe" initiative in April 2014, PBS has been the required model to be used in all adult learning disabilities, social care and health services, and in June 2019 the Department of Health and Social Care recommended all special schools should use evidence-based approaches such as PBS to proactively support pupils whose behaviour can be challenging.

In contrast to other models of behaviour change, the focus in PBS is not on eliminating behaviour by blocking reinforcing consequences and applying negative ones in their place. The use of punishment and sanctions therefore does not fit with this approach, as the focus is instead on teaching alternative and replacement skills. However, the Department for Education requires all schools by law to have a written behaviour and discipline policy which includes school rules and which states explicitly that schools have the power to search for prohibited items and to list which items therefore must not be brought into school. This information consequently follows below.

## SCHOOL RULES

In line with Government requirements, Brookfields School has devised the following school rules, which focus on promoting a culture of care, cooperation, respect for oneself and others, and developing self-awareness and self-control in order to keep people safe. All pupils are encouraged to work within the following behaviour principles:

- Be kind and help others.
- Work hard and try your best.
- Try to be quiet and calm.
- Use kind hands and feet.
- Listen carefully to others

## SEARCHING PUPILS FOR PROHIBITED ITEMS

The Headteacher (and staff authorised by the Headteacher) has a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, with or without their consent, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect they may be in possession of any of the following prohibited items:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- batteries
- pornographic images
- 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)

For the safety of all pupils and staff, the above items must not be brought into school.

Brookfields School acknowledges that some pupils may experience smoother transitions from home to school with access to personal electronic devices such as mobile phones or tablets. However, the use of mobile phones or any devices capable of recording or photography is strictly prohibited on school premises. Exceptions are made for portable devices that serve exclusively as communication aids, such as AAC devices. If these devices are capable of accessing other functions beyond communication, parents must provide the school with the passcode; otherwise, school staff will set a passcode and share it with parents to restrict access to camera applications. In cases where AAC

devices have recording or photography functions, school staff reserve the right to review and delete any videos or images captured on school grounds.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil has brought any of the banned items listed above into school, the Head Teacher (and staff authorised by the Headteacher) has a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, with their consent, and if necessary, confiscate any banned items found. Incidents must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and recorded on the schools safeguarding system, CPOMS.

