Behaviour Policy

St Bernard's High School

Approved by:	Full Governing Board	Date: 30th June 2026
Last reviewed on:	June 2026	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

INTRODUCTION

Our Mission Statement

St Bernard's is a school community that aims to live by Jesus' commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."

We are a Catholic learning community committed to the on-going development of the entire potential of every person, achieved through a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

We care for each other as individuals of equal worth, regardless of status, sex, race or religion and thus actively seek to promote safeguarding, justice and fairness.

We provide an atmosphere in which all can grow in our Faith, and encourage this faith by a lively relevant liturgy.

We work with parents, parishes, local communities and industry to prepare our students for the opportunities of adulthood.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Create a positive culture that promotes excellent behaviour, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn in a calm, safe and supportive environment
- Establish a whole-school approach to maintaining high standards of behaviour that reflect the values of the school
- Outline the expectations and consequences of behaviour
- Provide a consistent approach to behaviour management that is applied equally to all students
- Define what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and discrimination

2. Legislation, statutory requirements and guidance

This policy is based on legislation and advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools
- The Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement
- Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people

In addition, this policy is based on:

- Schedule 1 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014; paragraph 7 outlines a school's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, paragraph 9 requires the school to have a written behaviour policy, and paragraph 10 requires the school to have an anti-bullying strategy

3. Definitions

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes
- Non-completion of classwork or homework
- Poor attitude to learning and or others
- Incorrect uniform

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

Repeated breaches of the school rules

Any form of child-on-child abuse, including but may not be limited to:

- Bullying
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children
- Physical abuse
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault (intentional sexual touching without consent)
- Sexual harassment, meaning unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual comments, physical behaviour, and online sexual harassment
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Upskirting
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Misogyny/misandry
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting
- Smoking
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Possession of any prohibited/banned items. These are:
    - Knives or weapons
    - Alcohol
    - Illegal drugs
    - Stolen items
    - Tobacco and cigarette papers
    - E-cigarettes or vapes
    - Fireworks

- Pornographic images
- Any article a staff member 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)
- Using mobile phone during the school day

4. Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobic/biphobic • Transphobic • Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos (including pseudo-images, which are computer-generated images that otherwise appear to be a photograph or video), or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites, devices or via images, audio, video, or written content generated by artificial intelligence (AI)

Details of our school's approach to preventing and addressing bullying are set out in our anti-bullying strategy Policies - St Bernard's High School

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The governing board

The Full Governing Body is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving the written statement of behaviour principles (appendix 1)
- Reviewing this behaviour policy in conjunction with the headteacher
- Monitoring the policy's effectiveness
- Holding the headteacher to account for its implementation

The governing board is responsible for monitoring this behaviour policy's effectiveness and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

5.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving this behaviour policy
- Ensuring that the school environment encourages positive behaviour
- Ensuring that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour
- Monitoring how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently to all groups of students
- Ensuring that all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them
- Providing new staff with a clear induction into the school's behavioural culture to ensure they understand its rules and routines, and how best to support all students to participate fully
- Offering appropriate training in behaviour management, and the impact of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and mental health needs on behaviour, to any staff who require it, so they can fulfil their duties set out in this policy
- Ensuring this policy works alongside the safeguarding policy to offer students both sanctions and support when necessary
- Ensuring that the data from the behaviour log is reviewed regularly, to make sure that no groups of students are being disproportionately impacted by this policy (see section 13.1)

5.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Creating a calm and safe environment for students
- Establishing and maintaining clear boundaries of acceptable student behaviour
- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Communicating the school's expectations, routines, values and standards through teaching behaviour and in every interaction with students
- Modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular students

- Recognising hidden stressors for vulnerable students, such as young carers or looked-after children, to ensure empathetic and supportive responses to their behaviour
- Considering the impact of their own behaviour on the school culture and how they can uphold school rules and expectations
- Using de-escalation techniques and positive behaviour management strategies to try to minimise and prevent the need for restrictive interventions
- Recording behaviour incidents promptly (see appendix 3 for a behaviour log)
- Challenging students to meet the school's expectations

The senior leadership team (SLT) will support staff in responding to behaviour incidents.

5.4 Parents and carers

Parents and carers, where possible, should:

- Get to know the school's behaviour policy and reinforce it at home where appropriate
- Support their child in adhering to the school's behaviour policy
- Inform the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect their child's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with the class teacher promptly
- Take part in any pastoral work following misbehaviour (for example, attending reviews of specific behaviour interventions)
- Raise any concerns about the management of behaviour with the school directly, while continuing to work in partnership with the school
- Take part in the life of the school and its culture

The school will endeavour to build a positive relationship with parents and carers by keeping them informed about developments in their child's behaviour and the school's policy, and working in collaboration with them to tackle behavioural issues.

5.5 Students

Students will be made aware of the following during their induction into the behaviour culture:

- The expected standard of behaviour they should be displaying at school
- That they have a duty to follow the behaviour policy
- The school's key rules and routines
- The rewards they can earn for meeting the behaviour standards, and the consequences they will face if they don't meet the standards
- The pastoral support that is available to them to help them meet the behaviour standards

Students will be supported to meet the behaviour standards and will be provided with repeated induction sessions wherever appropriate.

Students will be supported to develop an understanding of the school's behaviour policy and wider culture.

Students will be asked to give feedback on their experience of the behaviour culture to support the evaluation, improvement and implementation of the behaviour policy.

Extra support and induction will be provided for students who are mid-phase arrivals.

6. School behaviour

Students are expected to:

- Behave in an orderly and self-controlled way

- Show respect to members of staff and each other
- In class, make it possible for all students to learn
- Move quietly around the school
- Treat the school buildings and school property with respect
- Wear the correct uniform at all times
- Accept sanctions when given
- Refrain from behaving in a way that brings the school into disrepute, including when outside school or online

Where appropriate and reasonable, adjustments may be made to routines within the curriculum to ensure all students can meet behavioural expectations in the curriculum.

6.1 Mobile phones

The DfE's mobile phone guidance says that the use of mobile phones is prohibited throughout the school day.

Students must not use their mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, in the time between lessons, at breaktimes and at lunchtimes, unless explicitly authorised by a member of staff (for a specific medical reason). Mobile phones must be left in lockers at the start of the school day and picked up at the end of the school day.

Sanctions

If a student is found to have a mobile phone on them during the school day which is not secured in their locker, the phone will be confiscated, and students will be sanctioned as per below.

First time	mobile will be kept overnight, student will be given an extended HOY detention 45mins and 5 behaviour points
Second time (within the same term)	mobile will be kept for 3 days, and student will be given an SLT detention and 10 behaviour points
Third time (within the same term)	mobile will be kept for 5 days, and student will be isolated for 1 day and 15 behaviour points
Phones will not be returned to students if the confiscation runs over a weekend.	

- If a phone is kept overnight or longer, if required the student will be provided with a phone
- If travel ticket is on the student's phone then the student will go to Finance.

7.1 Classroom management

Teaching and support staff are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the school.

They will:

Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages students to be engaged

Develop a positive relationship with students, which may include:

- Greeting pupils in the morning/at the start of lessons
- Establishing clear routines
- Communicating expectations of behaviour in ways other than verbally
- Highlighting and promoting good behaviour

- Concluding the day positively and starting the next day afresh
- Having a plan for dealing with low-level disruption
- Using positive reinforcement

7.2 Safeguarding

The school recognises that:

- Changes in behaviour may be an indicator that a student is in need of help or protection
- Specific circumstances, such as being a young carer, looked-after child, or living in a vulnerable household, can significantly affect behaviour

We will consider whether a student's misbehaviour may be linked to them suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Where this may be the case, we will follow our child protection and safeguarding policy, and consider whether pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information Policies - St Bernard's High School

7.3 Responding to good behaviour

When a student's behaviour meets or goes above and beyond the expected behaviour standard, staff will recognise it with positive recognition and reward. This provides an opportunity for all staff to reinforce the school's culture and ethos.

Positive reinforcements and rewards will be applied clearly and fairly to reinforce the routines, expectations and norms of the school's behaviour culture.

Positive behaviour will be rewarded with:

Rewarding when expectations are met or exceeded

The school believes all students have to be given responsibility and trusted to respond in a positive way. St. Bernard's students are exceptional in the way they respond to being given responsibility. The school is often congratulated on student behaviour, especially on trips and educational visits. Where student behaviour needs to be modified the school believes that sanctions alone will not always be successful. Some students need to realise that there are advantages to behaving well until it becomes part of their normal behaviour as they mature. The school has several reward systems, some of which are used to recognise students that have met or exceeded our expectations.

In the daily life of the school staff seek to recognise achievement in the following ways:-

• Regular use of words of encouragement and praise

• Encouragement via prompt and positive marking of work

• Achievement Points based on Service, Justice and Respect in accordance with our mission statement.

• Acknowledgement of Achievement in the School Newsletter Year Assemblies

• Reward Certificates,

• Commendations

• Certificates for Special occasions - eg. Support of school events, Personal Achievements

• Badges for reaching Bronze, Silver, Gold based on the amount of achievement points Whole School Assemblies

• Presentation of Head Student Team

• Prefects, peer mentors etc. Achievement Awards

There are many reasons for giving out achievement points and below is a list to help as a guide:

- Excellent piece of work
- Achieving a good standard in a test Answering questions in class
- Participating in class discussions
- Competitions within the lesson
- Extra effort in class
- Exceptional behaviour
- Being helpful within the class
- 5 good pieces of work
- Exceeding lesson objectives

These are recorded on SIMS and categorized for either Service, Respect or Justice

Jack Petchey Award

The award is issued every month. Staff and students are invited to nominate students for the Jack Petchey award which is issued each month. Nominations are placed in the box provided in the library. Nominations can be made for a variety of reasons including academic achievement and effort within a subject or where a student has had a positive impact on the school community through their actions. Winners receive a Jack Petchey badge and certificate and get to decide how a sum of money is to be spent within the school. Certificates are presented in Year assemblies so the students peer group can help celebrate their success and acknowledge their contribution to the life of the school community.

Celebration Assembly

At the end of each term each year group will have a celebration assembly. This will be organised in the last week of term. Prizes for:

• 100% attendance certificates and the best form attendance

• Outstanding Contribution to the Community reaching a certain amount of points

• Excellent work in class

• HOY Award

• Headteacher Award Celebration Day Whole School Celebration at the end of the school year.

Procedures

The procedures arising from this policy will be developed by the Head Teacher in consultation with the staff. The procedures will make clear to the students how acceptable standards of behaviour can be achieved and will have a clear rationale which is made explicit to staff, students and parent/carer(s)/carer(s).

7.4 Responding to misbehaviour

When a pupil's behaviour falls below the standard that can reasonably be expected of them, staff will respond in order to restore a calm and safe learning environment, and to prevent recurrence of misbehaviour.

Staff will endeavour to create a predictable environment by always challenging behaviour that falls short of the standards, and by responding in a consistent, fair and proportionate manner, so students know with certainty that misbehaviour will always be addressed.

De-escalation techniques, including the use of pre-arranged scripts and phrases, can be used to help prevent further behaviour issues arising, including situations where staff may need to use a restrictive intervention. See our policy on the use of restrictive interventions for more detail on prevention and de-escalation strategies [Policies - St Bernard's High School]

All students will be treated equitably under the policy, with any factors that contributed to the behavioural incident identified (e.g. whether a student has specific vulnerabilities) and taken into account.

When giving behaviour sanctions, staff will also consider what support could be offered to a student to help them to meet behaviour standards in the future.

The school may use 1 or more of the following sanctions in response to unacceptable behaviour:

- A verbal reprimand and reminder of the expectations of behaviour
- Setting of written tasks such as an account of their behaviour
- Expecting work to be completed at home, or at break or lunchtime
- Detention at break or lunchtime, or after school
- Loss of privileges – for instance, the loss of a prized responsibility
- School-based community service, such as tidying a classroom
- Referring the student to a senior member of staff
- Letter or phone call home to parents/carers
- Putting a student 'on report'
- Removal of the student from the classroom
- Suspension
- Permanent exclusion, in the most serious of circumstances

Personal circumstances of the student will be taken into account when choosing sanctions. Where appropriate, staff will liaise with our SENCO and or DSL to help determine an appropriate sanction. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, but with regard to the impact on perceived fairness.

Possession of weapons or the use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

The Head Teacher has a duty in law to inform the Police of any offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act. St. Bernard's has a zero tolerance policy towards the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs and the possession of weapons.

Permanent Exclusion may result from:

• The buying, selling, offering, supplying, using or possession of drugs in School, on the way to or from School, or at any function, trip, visit or holiday organised by the School, including Work Experience and training placement.

• A conviction for dealing in drugs outside the School at any time.

• Carrying an offensive weapon or dangerous implement, such as knives, pointed scissors or any implement that can cause harm.

Sometimes unexpected incidents occur which warrant the immediate use of major sanctions. Parent/carer(s)/carer(s)s will always be contacted and be asked to visit the school to discuss the situation.

7.5 Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force

Our approach to restrictive interventions follows the DfE's latest guidance on restrictive interventions.

Restrictive interventions are used to prevent, restrict, or subdue movement of the body or part of the body of a student. It describes both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain students in different ways.

Our staff understand that any form of force or restraint carries a risk of physical and psychological harm, so we always avoid using these measures where possible.

7.5.1 Reasonable force

Reasonable force covers a broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to restrain students, using no more force than is needed for the least amount of time, the application of which will depend on the circumstances.

All members of staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in certain situations, to prevent a student from:

- Hurting themselves or others
- Committing a criminal offence
- Damaging property
- Causing disorder among students, in or out of lessons

Reasonable force must:

- Always be used as a last resort
- Be used in a way that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned
- **Never** be used as a form of punishment
- **Never** involve restraining a student in a way that affects their airway, breathing or circulation, for example by covering their nose and/or mouth or applying pressure to their neck or abdomen
- **Never** be used if the student is on the ground. If a student is unintentionally held on the ground, staff should release their hold or move into a safer position as quickly as possible

When considering using reasonable force, staff should, in considering the risks, carefully recognise any specific vulnerabilities of the student, including SEND, mental health needs or medical conditions.

Please see our restrictive intervention policy for more information Policies - St Bernard's High School

7.5.2 Seclusion

Seclusion is a **non-disciplinary intervention** that keeps a student confined to a place away from others and prevents them from leaving, for the safety of that student and/or others.

We only use seclusion as a safety measure when a student is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Seclusion is **not** used as a threat or punishment and is **not** a disciplinary response to deliberate or wilful misbehaviour.

During seclusion:

- The student will be secluded in a safe place that does not feel threatening or intimidating to them [a wellbeing room]
- The student will be supervised at all times, by at least 1 member of staff

As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the student will be allowed to leave.

7.5.3. Recording and reporting requirements

Staff have a legal duty to record and report all:

- Significant incidents involving force
- Seclusion incidents
- Restraint incidents

Please refer to our restrictive intervention policy for more information on this legal duty Policies - St Bernard's High School

Confiscation

Any prohibited items (listed in section 3) found in a student's possession as a result of a search will be confiscated. These items will not be returned to the student.

We will also confiscate any item that is harmful or detrimental to school discipline. These items will be returned to students after discussion with senior leaders and parents/carers, if appropriate.

Searching a student

Searches will only be carried out by a member of staff who has been authorised to do so by the headteacher, or by the headteacher themselves.

Subject to the exception below, the authorised member of staff carrying out the search will be of the same sex as the student, and there will be another member of staff present as a witness to the search.

An authorised member of staff of a different sex to the student can carry out a search without another member of staff as a witness if:

- The authorised member of staff carrying out the search reasonably believes there is risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not carried out as a matter of urgency; **and**
- In the time available, it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out by a member of staff who is the same sex as the student; **or**
- It is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out in the presence of another member of staff

When an authorised member of staff conducts a search without a witness, they should immediately report this to another member of staff, and make sure a written record of the search is kept.

If the authorised member of staff considers a search to be necessary, but not required urgently, they will seek the advice of the headteacher, designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) or pastoral member of staff who may have more information about the student. During this time the pupil will be supervised and kept away from other students.

A search can be carried out if the authorised member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student is in possession of a prohibited item or any item identified in the school rules for which a search can be made, or if the student has agreed.

An appropriate location for the search will be found. Where possible, this will be away from other students. The search will only take place on the school premises or where the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the student, for example on a school trip.

Before carrying out a search the authorised member of staff will:

- Assess whether there is an urgent need for a search
- Assess whether not doing the search would put other students or staff at risk
- Consider whether the search would pose a safeguarding risk to the student
- Explain to the student why they are being searched
- Explain to the student what a search entails – e.g. "I will ask you to turn out your pockets and remove your scarf"
- Explain how and where the search will be carried out
- Give the student the opportunity to ask questions
- Seek the student's co-operation

If the student refuses to agree to a search, the member of staff can give an appropriate behaviour sanction.

If they still refuse to co-operate, the member of staff will contact the Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead, to try to determine why the student is refusing to comply.

The authorised member of staff will then decide whether to use reasonable force to search the student. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration whether conducting the search will prevent the student harming themselves or others, damaging property or causing disorder.

The authorised member of staff can use reasonable force to search for any prohibited items identified in section 3, but not to search for items that are only identified in the school rules.

The authorised member of staff may use a metal detector to assist with the search.

An authorised member of staff may search a student's outer clothing, pockets, possessions, desk or locker.

'Outer clothing' includes:

- Any item of clothing that isn't worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over underwear (e.g. a jumper or jacket being worn over a t-shirt)
- Hats, scarves, gloves, shoes or boots

Searching students' possessions

Possessions means any items that the pupil has or appears to have control of, including:

- Desks
- Lockers
- Bags

A student's possessions can be searched for any item if the student agrees to the search. If the student does not agree to the search, staff can still carry out a search for prohibited items (listed in section 3) and items identified in the school rules.

An authorised member of staff can search a student's possessions when the student and another member of staff are present.

If there is a serious risk of harm if the search is not conducted immediately, or it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff, the search can be carried out by a single authorised member of staff.

Informing the designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The staff member who carried out the search should inform the DSL without delay:

- Of any incidents where the member of staff had reasonable grounds to suspect a student was in possession of a prohibited item as listed in section 3
- If they believe that a search has revealed a safeguarding risk

All searches for prohibited items (listed in section 3), including incidents where no items were found, will be recorded in the school's safeguarding system.

Informing parents/carers

Parents/carers will always be informed of any search for a prohibited item (listed in section 3). A member of staff will tell the parents/carers as soon as is reasonably practicable:

- What happened
- What was found, if anything
- What has been confiscated, if anything
- What action the school has taken, including any sanctions that have been applied to their child

Support after a search

Irrespective of whether any items are found as the result of any search, the school will consider whether the student may be suffering or likely to suffer harm and whether any specific support is needed (due to the reasons for the search, the search itself, or the outcome of the search).

If this is the case, staff will follow the school's safeguarding policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). The DSL will consider whether pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

Strip searches

The authorised member of staff's power to search outlined above does not enable them to conduct a strip search (removing more than the outer clothing) and strip searches on school premises shall only be carried out by police officers in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code C.

Before calling the police into school, staff will assess and balance the risk of a potential strip search on the student's mental and physical wellbeing and the risk of not recovering the suspected item.

Staff will consider whether introducing the potential for a strip search through police involvement is absolutely necessary, and will always ensure that other appropriate, less invasive approaches have been exhausted first.

Once the police are on school premises, the decision on whether to conduct a strip search lies solely with them. The school will advocate for the safety and wellbeing of the student(s) involved. Staff retain a duty of care to the student involved and should advocate for student wellbeing at all times.

Communication and record-keeping

Where reasonably possible and unless there is an immediate risk of harm, before the strip search takes place, staff will contact at least 1 of the student's parents/carers to inform them that the police are going to strip search the student, and ask them whether they would like to come into school to act as the student's appropriate adult. If the school can't get in touch with the parents/carers, or they aren't able to come into school to act as the appropriate adult, a member of staff can act as the appropriate adult (see below for information about the role of the appropriate adult).

The student's parents/carers will always be informed by a staff member once a strip search has taken place. The school will keep records of strip searches that have been conducted on school premises, and monitor them for any trends that emerge.

Who will be present

For any strip search that involves exposure of intimate body parts, there will be at least 2 people present other than the student, except in urgent cases where there is risk of serious harm to the student or others.

One of these must be the appropriate adult, except if:

- The student explicitly states in the presence of an appropriate adult that they do not want an appropriate adult to be present during the search, **and**
- The appropriate adult agrees

If this is the case, a record will be made of the student's decision and it will be signed by the appropriate adult.

No more than 2 people other than the student and appropriate adult will be present, except in the most exceptional circumstances.

The appropriate adult will:

- Act to safeguard the rights, entitlements and welfare of the student
- Not be a police officer or otherwise associated with the police
- Not be the headteacher
- Be of the same sex as the student, unless the student specifically requests an adult who is not of the same sex

Except for an appropriate adult of a different sex if the student specifically requests it, no one of a different sex will be permitted to be present and the search will not be carried out anywhere where the student could be seen by anyone else.

Care after a strip search

After any strip search, the student will be given appropriate support, irrespective of whether any suspected item is found. The student will also be given the opportunity to express their views about the strip search and the events surrounding it.

As with other searches, the school will consider whether the student may be suffering or likely to suffer harm and whether any further specific support is needed (due to the reasons for the search, the search itself, or the outcome of the search).

Staff will follow the school's safeguarding policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). The DSL will consider whether, in addition to pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

Any student(s) who have been strip searched more than once and/or groups of students who may be more likely to be subject to strip searching will be given particular consideration, and staff will consider any preventative approaches that can be taken.

7.7 Child-on-child abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up", as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for students.

All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other students will be dealt with under this policy.

Where allegations raise safeguarding concerns, this will be managed under our safeguarding policy. Our safeguarding policy contains further information on how we prevent and manage incidents of child-on-child abuse Policies - St Bernard's High School

7.8 Off-site misbehaviour

Sanctions may be applied where a student has misbehaved off-site when representing the school. This means misbehaviour when the student is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity (e.g. school trips)
- Travelling to or from school
- Wearing school uniform
- In any other way identifiable as a student of our school

Sanctions may also be applied where a student has misbehaved off-site, at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misbehaviour:

- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- Poses a threat to another student
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school

Sanctions will only be given out on school premises or elsewhere when the student is under the lawful control of a staff member (e.g. on a school-organised trip).

7.9 Online misbehaviour

The school can issue behaviour sanctions to students for online misbehaviour when:

- It poses a threat or causes harm to another student
- It could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- It adversely affects the reputation of the school
- The student is identifiable as a member of the school

Sanctions will only be given out on school premises or elsewhere when the student is under the lawful control of a staff member.

7.10 Suspected criminal behaviour

If a student is suspected of criminal behaviour, the school will make an initial assessment of whether to report the incident to the police.

When establishing the facts, the school will endeavour to preserve any relevant evidence to hand over to the police.

If a decision is made to report the matter to the police, the Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher will make the report.

The school will not interfere with any police action taken. However, the school may continue to follow its own investigation procedure and enforce sanctions, as long as it does not conflict with police action.

If a report to the police is made, the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will make a tandem report to children's social care, if appropriate.

7.11 Zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence

The school will ensure that all incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence are met with a suitable response, and never ignored.

Students are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable, no matter how 'small' they feel it might be.

The school's response will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

The school has procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing. These include clear processes for:

Responding to a report

Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:

- Manage the incident internally
- Refer to early help
- Refer to children's social care
- Report to the police

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding policy for more information

Policies - St Bernard's High School

7.12 Malicious allegations

Where a student makes an allegation against a member of staff and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether to discipline the student in accordance with this policy.

Where a student makes an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment against another student and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether to discipline the student in accordance with this policy.

In all cases where an allegation is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the school (in collaboration with the local authority designated officer (LADO), where relevant) will consider whether the student who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help. If so, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

The school will also consider the pastoral needs of staff and students accused of misconduct.

Please refer to our child protection and safeguarding for more information on responding to allegations of abuse against staff or other students.

Policies - St Bernard's High School

8. Serious sanctions

8.1 Detention

All members of staff can give student detentions.

Students can be issued with detentions during break, after school or during term time.

The school will decide whether it is necessary to inform the student's parents/carers.

When imposing a detention, the school will consider whether doing so would:

- Compromise the student's safety
- Conflict with a medical appointment
- Prevent the student from getting home safely
- Interrupt the student's caring responsibilities

8.2 Removal from classrooms

In response to serious or persistent breaches of this policy, the school may remove the student from the classroom for a limited time. Removal from the classroom is a serious disciplinary measure and distinct from seclusion, which is strictly non-disciplinary (see section 7.5 above for more detail on seclusion and its use).

Students who have been removed will continue to receive education under the supervision of a member of staff. This education will be meaningful, but it may differ from the mainstream curriculum.

Removal is a serious sanction and will only be used in response to serious misbehaviour. Staff will only remove students from the classroom once other behavioural strategies have been attempted, unless the behaviour is so extreme as to warrant immediate removal.

Removal can be used to:

- Restore order if the student is being unreasonably disruptive
- Maintain the safety of all students
- Allow the disruptive student to continue their learning in a managed environment
- Allow the disruptive student to regain calm in a safe space

Students who have been removed from the classroom are supervised by Isolation Supervisor/Mentor.

Students will not be removed from classrooms for prolonged periods of time without the explicit agreement of the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral).

Students should be reintegrated into the classroom as soon as it is appropriate and safe to do so. The school will consider what support is needed to help a student successfully reintegrate into the classroom and meet the expected standards of behaviour.

Parents/carers will be informed on the same day that their child is removed from the classroom.

The school will consider an alternative approach to behaviour management for students who are frequently removed from class, such as:

- Meetings with learning mentors
- Use of learning support assistant's
- Multi-agency assessment
- Report

Staff will record all incidents of removal from the classroom in the behaviour log, along with details of the incident that led to the removal, and any protected characteristics of the student.

8.3 Suspension and permanent exclusion

The school can use suspension and permanent exclusion in response to serious incidents or in response to persistent poor behaviour which has not improved following in-school sanctions and interventions.

The decision to suspend or exclude will be made by the headteacher and only as a last resort.

Please refer to our exclusions policy for more information: Policies - St Bernard's High School

9. Responding to misbehaviour from students with SEND

9.1 Recognising the impact of SEND on behaviour

The school recognises that students' behaviour may be impacted by a special educational need or disability (SEND). Students with SEND may react to distressing or confusing situations by displaying behaviours which may be harmful to themselves and others. Students who have difficulty communicating verbally might show their needs and discomfort through their actions.

When incidents of misbehaviour arise, we will consider them in relation to a student's SEND, although we recognise that not every incident of misbehaviour will be connected to their SEND. Decisions on whether a student's SEND had an impact on an incident of misbehaviour will be made on a case-by-case basis.

When dealing with misbehaviour from students with SEND, especially where their SEND affects their behaviour, the school will take its legal duties into account when making decisions about enforcing the behaviour policy. The legal duties include:

- Taking reasonable steps to avoid any substantial disadvantage to a disabled student being caused by the school's policies or practices (Equality Act 2010)
- Using our best endeavours to meet the needs of students with SEND (Children and Families Act 2014)
- If a student has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, the provisions set out in that plan must be secured and the school must co-operate with the local authority and other bodies

As part of meeting these duties, the school will anticipate, as far as possible, all likely triggers of misbehaviour, and put in place support, including behaviour support plans where appropriate, to prevent these from occurring.

We will utilise staff who know individual students with SEND well to:

- Help identify and manage risk, such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur
- Develop proactive strategies to reduce the likelihood of restrictive interventions being used

We will also work with the student, their parents/carers and other professionals to develop prevention and de-escalation strategies.

Any preventative measures will take into account the specific circumstances and requirements of the student concerned.

- Short, planned movement breaks for a student with SEND who finds it difficult to sit still for long
- Adjusting seating plans to allow a student with visual or hearing impairment to sit in sight of the teacher
- Adjusting uniform requirements for a student with sensory issues or who has severe eczema
- Training for staff in understanding conditions such as autism
- Use of separation spaces where students can regulate their emotions during a moment of sensory overload
- Exit passes

9.2 Adapting sanctions for students with SEND

When considering a behavioural sanction for a student with SEND, the school will consider whether:

- The student was unable to understand the rule or instruction
- The student was unable to act differently at the time as a result of their SEND
- The student was likely to behave aggressively due to their particular SEND

If the answer to any of these is 'yes', it may be unlawful for the school to sanction the student for the behaviour.

The school will then assess whether it is appropriate to use a sanction and if so, whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the sanction.

9.3 Considering whether a student displaying challenging behaviour may have unidentified SEND

The school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) may evaluate a student who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met.

Where necessary, support and advice will also be sought from specialist teachers, an educational psychologist, medical practitioners and/or others, to identify or support specific needs.

When acute needs are identified in a student, we will liaise with external agencies and plan support programmes for that child. We will work with parents/carers to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

9.4 Students with an education, health and care (EHC) plan

The provisions set out in the EHC plan must be secured and the school will co-operate with the local authority and other bodies.

If the school has a concern about the behaviour of a student with an EHC plan, it will make contact with the local authority to discuss the matter. If appropriate, the school may request an emergency review of the EHC plan.

SENTeam@southend.gov.uk

10. Supporting students following a sanction

Following a sanction, the school will consider strategies to help the student to understand how to improve their behaviour and meet the expectations of the school.

- Reintegration meetings
- Daily contact with the Deputy Head for Pastoral & HOY
- A report card with personalised behaviour goals]
- Post suspension plan

11. Student transition

11.1 Inducting incoming students

The school will support incoming students to meet behaviour standards by offering an induction process to familiarise them with the behaviour policy and the wider school culture.

11.2 Preparing outgoing students for transition

To ensure a smooth transition to the next year, students have transition sessions with their new teacher(s). In addition, staff members hold transition meetings.

To ensure behaviour is continually monitored and the right support is in place, information relating to student behaviour issues may be transferred to relevant staff at the start of the term or year.

12. Training

As part of their induction process, our staff are provided with regular training on managing behaviour, including training on:

- The safe and lawful use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions
- The needs of the students at the school
- How SEND, mental health needs and personal circumstances can impact behaviour
- Trauma-informed practice and behaviour management

Behaviour management will also form part of continuing professional development.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Monitoring and evaluating behaviour

The school will collect data on the following:

- Behavioural incidents, including removal from the classroom
- Attendance, permanent exclusions and suspensions
- Use of student support units, off-site directions and managed moves
- Incidents involving restrictive intervention, including the use of reasonable force
- Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation
- Perceptions and experiences of the school behaviour culture for staff, students, governors, trustees and other stakeholders (via anonymous surveys)

The data will be analysed every term by Deputy Headteacher

The data will be analysed from a variety of perspectives including:

- At school level
- By age group
- At the level of individual members of staff
- By time of day/week/term
- By protected characteristic

The school will use the results of this analysis to make sure it is meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. If any trends or disparities between groups of students are identified by this analysis, the school will review its policies to tackle them.

13.2 Monitoring this policy

This behaviour policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and full governing board at least annually, or more frequently, if needed, to address findings from the regular monitoring of the behaviour data (as per section 13.1). At each review, the policy will be approved by the Full Governing Board.

14. Links with other policies

This behaviour policy is linked to the following policies

- Exclusions policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Restrictive interventions policy
- Mobile phone policy