



TWHF Behaviour Policy

Key Document Details

School Name: TWHF – All Schools

Version no: 9

Author: Director of Inclusion

Owner: Directors of Education

Approved by: CEO

Ratified date: September 25

Interim review date: N/A

Next review date: September 26

1.	Section 1 – Aims and Expectations	4
2.	Section 2 – Our understanding of behaviour	5
3.	Section 3 – Definitions	5
	Misbehaviour	5
	Serious misbehaviour	5
4.	Section 4 – Bullying	6
	Bullying.....	6
5.	Section 5 – Anti-bullying	7
6.	Section 6 – Roles and responsibilities.....	7
	6.1 The role of Teacher/Tutor.....	7
	6.2 The role of the Safeguarding Team.....	8
	6.3 The role of the Senior Leadership Team or Schools and TWHF.....	8
	6.4 The role of the Headteacher	8
	6.5 The role of Governors (Local Governing Committee).....	9
	6.6 The role of the Board of Trustees	9
	6.7 The role of parents.....	9
	6.8 Responsibilities of students / students code of conduct.....	9
7.	Section 7 – Roles and responsibilities.....	10
	7.1 Classroom management	10
	7.2 Safeguarding	10
	7.3 Responding to positive behaviour	10
	7.3 Responding to misbehaviour	11
	7.5 Restrictive interventions including use of reasonable force	11
	7.6 Searching, screening and confiscation.....	15
	7.7 Off-site misbehaviour	15
	7.8 Online misbehaviour.....	16
	7.9 Suspected criminal behaviour.....	16
	7.10 Approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence	16
	Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB).....	17
	7.11 Malicious allegations.....	17
8.	Section 8 – Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions.....	18
	Suspension and Permanent Exclusion:	18
	Suspension:.....	18
9.	Section 9 – Permanent Exclusion.....	20

10. Section 10 – Off-site directions 21

11. Section 11 – Managed moves 21

12. Section 12 – Responding to misbehaviour from pupils with SEND 22

 12.1 Recognising the impact of SEND on behaviour 22

 12.2 Adapting sanctions for pupils with SEND 23

 12.3 Considering whether a pupil displaying challenging behaviour may have unidentified SEND 23

 12.4 Students with an education, health and care (EHC) plan 24

13. Section 13 – Student Support 24

14. Section 14 – Student transition 24

 14.1 Inducting incoming students 24

 14.2 Preparing outgoing students for transition 24

15. Section 15 – Training 25

16. Section 16 – Monitoring 25

 16.1 Monitoring and evaluating school behaviour 25

 16.2 Monitoring this policy 25

17. Section 17 – Legislation, statutory requirements and statutory guidance 26

18. Appendix 1: Searching, Screening and Confiscation 26

 Confiscation 26

 Searching a student 26

 Searching electronic devices 28

 Searching students possessions 28

 Recording of searches 29

 Informing parents 29

 Support after a search 29

 Strip searches 29

 Communication and record-keeping 30

 Who will be present? 30

 Care after a strip search 31

 Screening 31

Version	Date	Page document	Change	Origin of change e.g. Change in legislation, Policy review.
7	September 2024		Improved layout to support printing and rebranded.	
8	July 2025	3	1.2 – remove supplementary guidance	Change of wording
8	July 2025	4	2.9 – added	Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
8	July 2025	6	5.3 – added	
8	July 2025	7	6.8 - Strengthening Student Voice and Co-Production	Sentence added
8	July 2025	10	7.10 – Harmful Sexual Behaviour	Paragraph added
8	July 2025	11	8.6 - Reintegration meetings list added	Reintegration meetings
8	July 2025	13	Safeguarding sentence added	Off -site directions / Managed moves
8	July 2025	13	12.1 – Change in last paragraph	Neurodiversity-Informed Practice
8	July 2025	14	12.3 – Re written	Considering Whether a Pupil Displaying Challenging Behaviour May Have Unidentified SEND
8	July 2025	15	15 – Training	Staff wellbeing
9	April 2026	9	7.5 updated to align with new DFE guidance	Change in legislation

1. Section 1 – Aims and Expectations

- 1.1 This policy aims to help children to grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.
- 1.2 This overarching policy outlines the Trust’s core values and expectations regarding student behaviour, emphasising the vital role staff play in promoting positive conduct and responding effectively to behavioural challenges. While this policy provides a consistent framework across the Trust, each school also develops its own statement of behaviour principles to reflect its unique context and community.
- 1.3 It is a primary aim of our trust that every member of the school community feels valued, respected, and safe. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all.
- 1.4 Relationships are key. The Trust expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate, and respectful way towards others. Each school must define and communicate its behaviour curriculum, outlining the expected behaviours, routines, and values that underpin a positive school culture. This curriculum should be taught explicitly and revisited regularly.
- 1.5 We treat all students fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way.
- 1.6 We teach our students to care for one another and respect boundaries around their bodies and belongings.

- 1.7 Staff receive training to ensure they are trauma aware and trauma responsive, so that they have the knowledge and skills to support students effectively.
- 1.8 The effectiveness of this policy can be measured by staff and student well-being.
- 1.9 To define what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and discrimination.
- 1.10 Outlines how students are expected to behave.

2. Section 2 – Our understanding of behaviour

- 2.1 For all students to engage with their learning they need to feel safe, secure and listened to.
- 2.2 Adults in schools must have the highest expectations of all students
- 2.3 Students need consistent rules in place which are clear, regularly re-visited and adapted where necessary.
- 2.4 Relationships are at the heart of our approach to behaviour across the Trust.
- 2.5 Staff recognise that behaviour is a form of communication and needs to be actively listened to.
- 2.6 Where students have suffered or are suffering from abuse or neglect, we recognise that they will need additional support when they are distressed and displaying challenging or disruptive behaviour.
- 2.7 Where students have additional needs, we recognise that these may include support with managing behaviour
- 2.8 For staff to respond effectively to challenging or disruptive behaviour, they need to understand what the behaviour is telling them about the child and their needs.
- 2.9 The Trust recognises that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can significantly affect student behaviour, emotional regulation and relationships. All schools are expected to adopt consistent routines, relational de-escalation, and clear repair and restore processes.

3. Section 3 – Definitions

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors between lessons, and at break and lunchtimes non-completion of classwork or homework
- Not having the correct equipment for lessons
- Poor attitude
- Incorrect uniform

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of the school rules Any form of bullying
- 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
 - Sexual jokes or taunting
 - Physical behaviour like interfering with clothes
 - Online sexual harassment, such as unwanted sexual comments and messages (including on social media), sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos, or sharing of unwanted explicit content.
- Vandalism Theft
- Fighting Smoking
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory behaviour
- Possession of any prohibited items. These are:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Stolen items
 - Tobacco, cigarette papers, vaping devices
 - 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 pupil)

4. Section 4 – Bullying

Bullying

is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial 	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g., gender, race, sexuality)

- Faith-based
- Gendered (sexist)
- Homophobic/biphobic
- Transphobic
- Disability-based

Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, 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 or gaming sites

Details of each school's approach to preventing and addressing bullying are set out in their anti-bullying policy.

5. Section 5 – Anti-bullying

We recognise that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create barriers to learning and can have serious consequences for the mental health and well-being of our students.

- 5.1 We promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying in the first instance and require all members of our community to work with the school to prevent bullying.
- 5.2 The trust and each school within it does not accept bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to prevent any further occurrences of such behaviour. While it is very difficult to eradicate bullying, we do everything in our power to ensure that all children attend school free from fear and are well-supported, together with their families.
- 5.3 Each school will promote student-led anti-bullying initiatives including, student-designed awareness campaigns, and whole-school engagement during national events such as Anti-Bullying Week. Pupil voice will be central in evaluating the impact of anti-bullying strategies

6. Section 6 – Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The role of Teacher/Tutor

- a) It is the responsibility of the teacher/tutor to ensure that pupils/students know and understand the school rules and expectations about behaviour.
- b) The teachers/tutors in our schools have high expectations of the children in terms of behaviour, and they strive to promote positive relationships.
- c) The teacher/tutor treats each child fairly and with respect and understanding. Also providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular students.
- d) The teachers/tutors are responsible for implementing the behaviour policy and the school's

statement of procedures consistently.

- e) The teacher/tutor will work alongside members of the school safeguarding team to ensure that where safeguarding or child protection concerns have been identified, this informs teaching and learning so that adaptations can be made, where required.
- f) The teacher/tutor reports to parents about the progress of each child in their class, in line with the whole-school policy. The teacher/tutor may also contact a parent if there are concerns about the behaviour or welfare of a child.

6.2 The role of the Safeguarding Team

- a) The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will work in partnership with teachers and tutors to ensure headline information about safeguarding and child protection is shared, on a need to know basis.
- b) The DSL will work collaboratively with teaching staff and tutors to ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to adapt teaching and learning in light of any complex trauma a student may have experienced/be experiencing.

6.3 The role of the Senior Leadership Team or Schools and TWHF

- a) It is the responsibility of the Directors of Education supported by the CEO, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the behaviour and discipline in schools advice for headteachers and school staff (DFE-00023-2014) to ensure that the Headteachers and staff interpret the school behaviour policy consistently throughout the school, and to report to governors and trustees, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy. It is also the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children in the school.
- b) The Headteacher of each setting supports the staff and the Directors of Education by implementing the policy, by setting the standards of behaviour, and by supporting staff in the implementation of the policy.

6.4 The role of the Headteacher

- a) Reviewing and approving the school statement of procedures
- b) Ensuring that their school environment encourages positive behaviour
- c) Ensuring that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour
- d) Monitoring how staff implement the policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently to all groups of students
- e) Ensuring that all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them
- f) 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 pupils to participate fully
- g) 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
- h) Ensuring this policy works alongside the safeguarding policy to offer students both sanctions and support when necessary
- i) Ensuring the data from the behaviour log is reviewed regularly, to make sure that no groups of pupils are being disproportionately impacted by this policy (see section 13.1)
- j) The Headteacher of the school has the responsibility for giving fixed-term suspensions to individual

children for serious acts of misbehaviour. For repeated or very serious acts of anti-social behaviour, the Headteacher only has the authority to permanently exclude a child.

6.5 The role of Governors (Local Governing Committee)

- a) The governors have the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this policy in its school.
- b) The governors support the CEO, Directors of Education and Headteacher in ensuring this policy and associated policies are adhered to in its school.

6.6 The role of the Board of Trustees

- a) The board is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this behaviour policy and holding each Director of Education, Headteacher and Local Governing Committee to account for its implementation.

6.7 The role of parents

- a) Each school works collaboratively with parents, so children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school.
- b) Each school explains the school values and expectations of behaviour in the school prospectus or welcome documentation, and we expect parents to read these and support them.
- c) We expect parents to support their child's learning, and to co-operate with the school, as set out in each schools' home-school agreement. We try to build a supportive dialogue between the home and the school, and staff inform parents immediately if there are concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.
- d) If the school has to use reasonable sanctions with a child, parents are expected to support the actions of the school. If parents have any concern about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher and then the Headteacher if it is not resolved. If the concern remains, they should follow the TWHF complaints procedure.

6.8 Responsibilities of students / students code of conduct

In all schools students are expected to:

- a) Behave in an orderly and self-controlled way
- b) Show respect to members of staff, each other and their environment
- c) In class, make it possible for all students to learn
- d) Move calmly around the school
- e) Treat the school buildings and school property with respect
- f) Wear the correct uniform at all times
- g) Accept sanctions when given
- h) Refrain from behaving in a way that brings the school into disrepute, including when outside the school.

Ongoing support for students will be provided:

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

- b) Students will be supported to develop an understanding of school's behaviour policy and wider culture.
- c) 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.
- d) Extra support and induction will be provided for students who are mid-phase arrivals.

Students will be offered opportunities to contribute to the ongoing development and evaluation of the behaviour policy and wider behaviour culture. The Trust recognises that meaningful student voice promotes a positive culture of respect, engagement and inclusion.

7. Section 7 – Roles and responsibilities

7.1 Classroom management

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

They will:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages students to be engaged
- Display rules or expectations of behaviour in classrooms
- Develop a positive relationship with pupils, 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.

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 the school's child protection/safeguarding policies for more information.

7.3 Responding to positive behaviour

Praise and positive re-enforcement are used by staff to achieve the Trust's aims. Individual schools will outline how they do this within their Statement of Behaviour Principles. These will include:

- teachers congratulate children.
- teachers give children success points.
- sharing good work with other classes/teachers
- acknowledgement of good behaviour during assembly times.
- sharing good news with parents
- Other celebrations in line with each school's statement of behaviour principles.

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 values, routines and expectations of the school's behaviour culture.

7.3 Responding to misbehaviour

When a student'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 pupils know with certainty that misbehaviour will always be addressed.

De-escalation techniques can be used to help prevent further behaviour issues arising, such as the use of pre-arranged scripts and phrases. All students will be treated fairly under the policy, with any factors that contributed to the behavioural incident identified and taken into account. When giving behaviour sanctions, staff will also consider what support could be offered to a pupil to help them to meet behaviour sanctions in the future.

Sanctions used by each school will be laid out in their Statement of Behaviour Principles. Personal circumstances of the student will be taken into account when choosing sanctions, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, but with regard to the impact on perceived fairness.

7.5 Restrictive interventions including use of reasonable force

The Trust strives to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils. All members of staff (and anyone to whom the headteacher has given the responsibility to be in charge or in control of the pupils) are lawfully permitted to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline.

This power extends to times when staff are lawfully in charge of pupils but are off the school premises, e.g. on a school trip. There is no definition of when it is reasonable to use force, and every situation will have to be judged by the person in charge at that time.

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to have physical contact with pupils which does not constitute the use of reasonable force or other restrictive interventions.

Examples include:

- Giving first aid.
- Guiding or escorting pupils, such as holding the hand of a pupil when walking around the academy or on a school trip.
- Comforting a distressed pupil.
- Congratulating or praising a pupil, for example a pat on the back or a handshake.
- Demonstrating how to use a musical instrument.
- Demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching.

Staff may in limited circumstances need to use restraint, which is a non-disciplinary intervention which immobilises a student or limits their movement, and this may or may not include direct physical contact. This can include holding or binding a pupil's body, securing them to a fixed object or depriving them of an aid usually used to help them move. This will be avoided where at all possible.

Staff will only use seclusion – a non-disciplinary intervention to keep a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevented from leaving – as a safety measure to protect others from harm when a pupil is experiencing high level of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Staff will seek to ensure that the place of seclusion is not threatening or intimidating. The pupil must be supervised at all times during the period of seclusion. As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the pupil must be allowed to leave.

Reasonable force does not have to be used for an intervention to be seclusion. Seclusion includes:

- Physically obstructing the pupil's way of leaving the place,
- Securing the place so that the pupil cannot leave it, or
- Causing the pupil to believe that they will be punished if they leave the place.

Whenever any restrictive intervention is used, including reasonable force, staff will consider the following:

- Necessity – taking into account whether there is a less restrictive way to achieve the same thing, the risks involved, whether it may escalate and communicating, where possible, with other staff
- Proportionality – using the least amount of force, potential alternative strategies and the personal circumstances of the pupil including any relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- The pupil's welfare – including that pupil's context and circumstances, overall welfare, the importance of their dignity, the need to communicate with them about the decisions being taken, any EAL, and how the pupil is feeling.

Use of reasonable force and restrictive interventions will generally be rare and may need to be determined by staff in the moment in many cases.

Consideration will also always be given to the rights of the pupil concerned, including under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Each TWHF School recognises that some pupils with SEND may react to distressing or confusing situations by displaying behaviours which may be harmful to themselves and others. Triggers may include pain, sensory overload, unfamiliar situations or environments, or feelings of fear and anxiety. Pupils who are non-verbal or find verbal communication challenging may express their needs, discomfort or confusion through actions. Each School will seek to understand the underlying triggers of challenging behaviour to provide proactive support, create an inclusive environment, and utilise staff who know individual pupils well to help identify and manage risk, such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur. Parents should consult the Trust SEND policy that sets out the provision for SEND pupils and the Trust's approach generally, but in the context of restrictive interventions this might include:

- Pupil [behaviour plan and/or pastoral support plan and/or individual provision maps].
- Risk assessments.
- Specific adjustments for that pupil that are known to reduce the need for restrictive interventions.
- Distracting techniques.

Each TWHF school will minimise the need to use restrictive interventions through prevention and de-escalation measures, employing specific whole-school measures as well as tailored approaches for individual pupils.

Whole-school measures include:

- Consideration of how the school and classroom environment can support all pupils to achieve and thrive.
- Sharing best practice for whole-class behaviour management, and for managing communal spaces such as corridors and playgrounds.
- Training staff in effective communication strategies, such as using appropriate tone of voice and empathy to aid de-escalation.
- Development of working staff-pupil relationships and trust.
- Recording and analysing data on the use of restrictive interventions to inform improvement planning.

Individual approaches could include:

- Working closely with parents to support individual pupils
- Implementing strategies to support individual pupils based on their identified needs, including the development of [behaviour plans and/or pastoral support plan and/or individual provision maps]. Where a pupil has a disability, the school has a legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to support pupils with reasonable adjustments, making sure they can benefit from what the academy offers
- Giving pupils time, space and strategies to calm down before their behaviour escalates

Every significant incident in which reasonable force is used will be recorded by staff members, as required by s.93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This requirement only applies where it is a significant incident, so will not include cases where physical contact is made for other reasons, such as giving first aid. This recording will take place as soon as practicable after the event and should be done by the member of staff the same day as the incident. This following information must be recorded in the school's safeguarding system:

- Names of pupils and staff directly involved.
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether the pupil involved has an identified special educational need or disability and their SEN status code.
- Time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention.
- A brief account of the incident, including what led up to the incident, identified or potential triggers if known, any preventative or de-escalation strategies used, and (where relevant) what type of reasonable force was applied, the degree of force, and details of any physical injuries sustained.
- A brief account of why the use of force was assessed as necessary in that instance.
- Any post-incident support, such as details of any medical treatment for injuries or other adverse impacts.
- The pupil's account of what happened, as well as any witness accounts.

A report will also be made to parents where there is a significant use of force, apart from where:

- It appears to the staff member that doing so would be likely to result in serious harm to the pupil. In this instance, the staff member will report the incident to any parent(s) who it can be reported to without resulting in significant harm or, if there are none, to the local authority within whose area the pupil is ordinarily resident.

A report of the incident made to parents will include the following details as a minimum:

- Time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention.
- Brief account of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that instance.
- Brief account of what type of force was applied, and the degree of force.
- Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable.

Every incident which results in seclusion or restraint, which may not include reasonable force, must be recorded on the school's safeguarding system. Incidents must be recorded as soon as possible and no later than the same day, in writing. The information recorded must include:

- Names of pupil and staff directly involved.
- Time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention.
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether the pupil involved has an identified special educational need or disability and their SEN status code.
- A brief account of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that instance.
- Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable.
- Any post-incident support, such as details of any medical treatment for injuries or other adverse impacts.

A report must be made to parents where a pupil is subject to seclusion, restraint or immobilisation, even if that is included within a pupil's [behaviour plan and/or pastoral support plan and/or individual provision maps] (Apart from in the circumstances it appears to the staff member that doing so would be likely to result in serious harm to the pupil). Staff will endeavour to do this the same day, but this may also involve a subsequent follow up discussion with parents to include any de-escalation strategies and what can be done differently in future.

Where an incident resulted in both a significant use of force as well as seclusion/restraint, only the procedures set out at above will be used, with parents not needing to be informed twice.

Each school will evaluate all incidents involving the use of restrictive interventions as soon as practicable after the event to understand why it was used, the impact on pupils and staff, any patterns and trends, and how the use of restrictive interventions might be avoided in future.

Where appropriate, the pupil and staff member involved will receive a medical assessment and treatment for any injuries as soon as possible. Any injuries will be recorded in accordance with the Trust's procedures and reported as appropriate to the Health and Safety Executive.

Staff who are likely to need to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions will be adequately trained in its safe and lawful use and in preventative strategies. Each school will carry out risk assessments to ensure that staff who regularly work alongside pupils where the use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions may be required can do so as safely as possible, in accordance with the academy's duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

The Trust will ensure that the data around the use of force and restrictive interventions is considered by school leaders to ensure there is not a disproportionate use of force in the academy, to identify learning and patterns. and to make improvements to policies and practices.

7.6 Searching, screening and confiscation

Searching, screening and confiscation is conducted in line with the DFE's guidance. Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools (DFE, July 2022)

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

If there is cause to believe that a student has a prohibited item either on them or in their possessions, the school has the right to search the student. Further information on searching, screening and confiscation can be found in Appendix 1.

7.7 Off-site misbehaviour

Sanctions may be applied where a student has misbehaved off-site when representing the school. This means behaviour when the pupil 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 pupil of our school

Sanctions may also be applied where a pupil 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 pupil is under the lawful control of a staff member (e.g. on a school-organised trip).

7.8 Online misbehaviour

The school can issue behaviour sanctions to student 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 pupil 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.

7.9 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/Head of School 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.

7.10 Approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence

Each 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

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) refers to developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour that is displayed by children and young people and which is abusive or violent. This can range from inappropriate sexual language to sexually coercive behaviour or assault. The Trust recognises that HSB can occur between children of any gender and in a range of settings including online.

All incidents of HSB will be addressed promptly, proportionately and in line with both safeguarding and behaviour procedures. Where HSB has occurred, the school's response will include:

- Immediate safeguarding and safety planning for all children involved
- Consideration of sanctions in line with the nature, severity and impact of the incident
- Restorative or protective measures where appropriate
- Referral to statutory services (police, social care) where there is a risk of harm or criminal conduct

Sanctions for HSB may include suspension or permanent exclusion where:

- There is evidence of sexually violent or abusive conduct
- There is a risk to the safety or wellbeing of others in the school community
- The behaviour causes serious harm or distress

All sanctions will be applied alongside a thorough risk assessment and trauma-informed support plan. Each case will be considered individually, with decisions made jointly by safeguarding and senior leadership teams in consultation with parents and external professionals where appropriate.

Please refer to the school's child protection/safeguarding and associated policies for more information.

7.11 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 pupil in accordance with this policy.

Where a student makes an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment against another pupil and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether to discipline the pupil 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 pupil 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 pupils accused of misconduct.

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

8. Section 8 – Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions

Suspension and Permanent Exclusion:

“This government supports headteachers in using suspension and permanent exclusion as a sanction when warranted as part of creating calm, safe, and supportive environments where both pupils and staff can work in safety and are respected. To achieve this, suspension and permanent exclusion are sometimes a necessary part of a functioning system, where it is accepted that not all pupil behaviour can be amended or remedied by pastoral processes, or consequences within the school”.

(Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement – DFE Guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England – August 2024)

Suspension:

- 8.1 A suspension is where a pupil is temporarily removed from the school for a fixed period of time.
- 8.2 When establishing the facts in relation to a suspension or permanent exclusion decision the Headteacher must 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.’ This means that the Headteacher should accept that something happened if it is more likely that it happened than that it did not happen.
- 8.3 A pupil may be suspended for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year). A suspension does not have to be for a continuous period. Where suspensions reach 15 days in a term, a meeting with parents will be held.
- 8.4 In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to suspend a student for a fixed period of time, this would always be considered carefully. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to;
 - Serious failure to comply with a reasonable repeated request from a senior member of staff
 - Breaches of health and safety rules
 - Verbal abuse of staff, other adults or students

- Incidents where the safety of the pupil, other pupils or staff is seriously compromised
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or items which could be considered a weapon on school site
- Willful and / or malicious damage to property
- Homophobic, sexist or racist bullying
- Bullying of a sustained and serious nature
- Sexualised behaviour and misconduct
- Theft
- Making a false allegation against a member of staff
- Behaviour which calls into question the good name of the school
- Incidents of persistent disruptive behaviour impacting on the learning of others
- Assaults or fighting that are not premeditated or planned in nature

8.5 The school recognises the need to keep fixed term suspensions short wherever possible. It is therefore anticipated that in most cases a suspension would not exceed 5 days fixed term. Where it is necessary to suspend a student for a longer period, the school will ensure educational provision is offered to the student from the 6th day onwards.

8.6 Reintegration Meeting

Where a student is suspended or is directed to be educated off-site, upon return to the school both the pupil and parents will be invited to a reintegration meeting.

Reintegration meetings will include:

- A restorative discussion led by staff.
- An updated pupil / student plan (where appropriate).
- A wellbeing check-in and commitment to adult support.
- Opportunities for the pupil to share their perspective and co-create a positive return plan.

Staff are expected to ensure that reintegration represents a 'fresh start' and actively rebuilds trust and belonging

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- offer the pupil a fresh start
- help them understand the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others
- teach them to how meet the high expectations of behaviour in line with the school culture
- foster a renewed sense of belonging within the school community; and
- build engagement with learning

School staff will work with the pupil to understand what led to the behaviour and to establish if any changes can be made or further support implemented from a pastoral or practical perspective that might reduce the chance of repeat behaviours.

Should a parent/carer not be able to attend then a member of staff will call to rearrange the meeting or conduct the meeting with the student. We encourage parents to engage in reintegration meetings as suspension is a serious sanction.

9. Section 9 – Permanent Exclusion

9.1 A permanent exclusion is when a student is no longer allowed to attend a school (unless the student is reinstated). The decision to exclude a pupil permanently should only be taken:

- in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
- where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others such as staff or students in the school.

The principles, guidance and procedure set out in the DFE Exclusion Guidance will be followed at all times. This includes the statutory procedure for notifying parents, challenging the decision, and holding meetings/hearings, including the deadlines for these. The Headteacher may cancel (i.e., withdraw) any suspension or permanent exclusion which has not yet been formally reviewed by the Governors' Discipline Committee at a meeting, including where additional information has been received from the parents, Virtual School Head, Social Worker or other health or educational professional after the original decision was made.

[\(Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England, August 2024\)](#)

9.2 The Headteacher will make the judgement, in exceptional circumstances, where it is appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or 'one-off' offence. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to;

- serious actual or threatened physical assault against another student or a member of staff
- sexual abuse or assault
- sharing, supplying or in possession of an illegal drug
- carrying an offensive weapon
- making a malicious serious false allegation against a member of staff
- placing students, staff and members of the public in significant danger or at risk of significant harm

These instances are not exhaustive, but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour can affect the discipline and well-being of the school community.

A Headteacher may also permanently exclude a student for:

- one of the above offences
- persistent disruption and defiance including bullying (which would include racist, sexist or homophobic bullying).
- repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug or drug paraphernalia on school premises
- an offence which is not listed but is, in the opinion of the Headteacher, so serious that it will have a detrimental effect on the discipline and well-being of the school

community

10. Section 10 – Off-site directions

The school has the power to direct that a student be educated off-site with the aim of improving their future behaviour. It must not be used as a disciplinary sanction or punishment for misconduct.

The off-site direction may be to a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), an Alternative Provision Provider, or another school/academy (or unit therein).

Parental consent is not required for an off-site direction, and pupils are expected to attend the other setting as directed. If they do not attend, their absence will be unauthorised and dealt with in the same way as it would if they failed to attend the school.

The arrangements for the off-site placement will be based on an understanding of the support the students needs in order to improve their behaviour, as well as any SEND or health needs the pupil has. It may be full-time, or part-time in combination with attendance at the school or another setting. The expectation is that the pupil will continue to receive full-time broad and balanced education.

A 'personalised plan for intervention' will be put in place, which sets out the objectives for the pupil's improvement and attainment, the timeframe involved, the arrangements for assessment and monitoring progress, and with a baseline of the pupil's current position against which to measure their progress.

The off-site placement will be regularly reviewed each half term by senior staff, and parents will be involved in the review. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the off-site placement is achieving its objectives and that the pupil is benefitting from it.

During the period of an off-site direction by the school to another school/academy, the pupil must be dual registered which means that they will be registered at both the school and the school/academy to which the pupil is directed off-site.

At the end of any placement the school will seek an end of placement report from the alternative provision provider and will seek the student's views (if appropriate) as to the success of the placement.

The school will follow the DFE Alternative Provision Guidance when exercising this power.

11. Section 11 – Managed moves

A 'managed move' is used to initiate a process which leads to the permanent transfer of a pupil to another mainstream school/academy following a trial period. Managed moves should be voluntary and agreed with all parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the new school.

Managed moves should be offered as part of a planned intervention. It is designed to give students who are at risk of permanent exclusion a fresh start in another school/academy without a permanent exclusion on their educational record.

As it is a proposed permanent transfer to another setting, parental consent is required, and parents will be consulted with while this is being explored.

If a temporary move to another setting is needed with the aim of improving the pupil's behaviour, rather than as a trial period before a proposed permanent transfer to that setting, then off-site direction (as described above) must be used. An off-site direction can be made without parental consent.

A planned managed move will only happen when it is in the pupil's best interests.

During the trial period, the student will be dual registered at both the school and the new school/academy. If the managed move breaks down during the trial period, the new school/academy will terminate the trial period and delete the pupil's name from the register.

The student will then return to the school. For this reason, a managed move will not be appropriate following a serious breach and/or persistent breaches of the Behaviour policy for which permanent exclusion is deemed by the Headteacher to be the only appropriate sanction, where the school would not be prepared to accept the pupil back at the school if the managed move broke down during the trial period.

The school will agree a fixed period for the trial period at the outset, after which the new school/academy will be expected to give permission to the school for the pupil's name to be deleted from the school's roll, at which time the transfer becomes permanent

All managed moves and off-site directions must include oversight from the Designated Safeguarding Lead. A risk assessment will be completed before any move is agreed. Senior leaders must ensure that pastoral needs and emotional readiness for transition are considered, and that the receiving setting is appropriately briefed on the pupil's safeguarding and SEND profile.

12. Section 12 – Responding to misbehaviour from pupils with SEND

12.1 Recognising the impact of SEND on behaviour

The Trust recognises that students' behaviour may be impacted by a special educational need or disability (SEND).

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 pupils with SEND, especially where their SEND affects their behaviour, the school will balance their legal duties when making decisions about enforcing the behaviour policy. The legal duties include:

- Taking reasonable steps to avoid causing any substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices (Equality Act 2010)
- Using our best endeavours to meet the needs of pupils with SEND (Children and Families Act 2014)
- If a pupil 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 to prevent these from occurring.

Where pupils are identified as neurodivergent (e.g., ADHD, autism spectrum condition), the Trust acknowledges that communication, sensory sensitivities and processing differences may present as behaviours of concern. Staff will use pupil / student profiles and proactive scaffolding to ensure that expectations are appropriately adapted. These adaptations will be developed with the SENCO and parents/carers and reviewed regularly. All schools will outline further strategies that may be adopted in their Statement of Behaviour Principles.

12.2 Adapting sanctions for pupils with SEND

When considering a behavioural sanction for a student with SEND, the school will take into account:

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

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

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

12.3 Considering whether a pupil displaying challenging behaviour may have unidentified SEND

Where a pupil exhibits persistent or concerning behaviour, the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) will assess whether there may be unmet or unidentified special educational needs contributing to the behaviour. This evaluation will be part of a graduated response, beginning with in-school strategies and adjustments to provision.

Initial support will include:

- Classroom-based adaptations and targeted interventions;
- Monitoring and recording of behaviour patterns and responses to support;
- Engagement with parents/carers to gather insights and agree on next steps.

Only where these strategies have been implemented and reviewed, and further concerns remain, will the school consider seeking advice from external professionals such as specialist teachers, educational psychologists, or medical practitioners.

Where acute or complex needs are identified, the school will liaise with appropriate external agencies to develop a coordinated support plan. This plan will be co-produced with parents/carers and reviewed regularly to ensure it remains responsive to the pupil's evolving needs.

12.4 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 a pupil with an EHC plan's behaviour, it will make contact with the borough or local authority to discuss their issues. If appropriate, the school may request an emergency review of the EHC plan.

13. Section 13 – Student Support

The Trust and each school recognises its legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to prevent student with a protected characteristic from being at a disadvantage. Consequently, our approach to challenging behaviour may be differentiated to cater to the needs of the pupil.

Each school's special educational needs co-ordinator will evaluate a pupil 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 to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

14. Section 14 – Student transition

14.1 Inducting incoming students

Each 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.

14.2 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 related to pupil behaviour issues may be transferred to relevant school staff at the start of the term or year.

15. Section 15 – Training

As part of their induction process and continuing professional development, our staff are provided with regular training on managing behaviour. This will take place within individual schools routinely as well as through TWHF and external providers where required. This will include training on:

- Effective behaviour and classroom management
- Individual needs of the students in each school
- How SEND and mental health needs impact behaviour
- The proper use of restraint (Team Teach training where required)

The Trust acknowledges the impact of behaviour incidents on staff wellbeing. Schools will provide staff with access to:

- Behaviour debriefing and reflection following high-level incidents.
- Peer coaching models.
- Ongoing CPD in restorative conversations and conflict resolution.

Headteachers must monitor staff wellbeing and workload related to behaviour management, ensuring appropriate support systems are in place.

16. Section 16 – Monitoring

16.1 Monitoring and evaluating school behaviour

Each school will collect data on the following:

- 16.1.1 Behavioural incidents, including removal from the classroom
- 16.1.2 Attendance, permanent exclusion and suspension
- 16.1.3 Use of pupil support units, off-site directions and managed moves
- 16.1.4 Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation. The data will be analysed regularly by Headteachers, local governors, Directors of Education and Trustees.

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

- 16.1.5 At school level
- 16.1.6 By age group
- 16.1.7 At the level of individual members of staff
- 16.1.8 By time of day/week/term
- 16.1.9 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.

16.2 Monitoring this policy

The headteacher and the Directors of Education monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. The Headteacher also reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements. The effectiveness of the policy can be measured by staff and pupil/student well-being.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or more frequently if needed, by TWHF leadership team to address findings from the regular monitoring of the behaviour data and to ensure it remains in line with latest government guidance. At each review, the policy will be reviewed by the CEO.

17. Section 17 – Legislation, statutory requirements and statutory 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 Feb 2024](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Suspension and permanent exclusion guidance](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)

It is also based on the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#). 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
- [DfE guidance](#), which explains that academies should publish their behaviour policy and anti-bullying strategy online

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

18. Appendix 1: Searching, Screening and Confiscation

Confiscation

Any prohibited items as 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 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.

Subject to the exceptions below, the authorised member of staff carrying out the search will be 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.

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

If the authorised member of staff considers a search to be necessary, but is 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 student 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 pupil, 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, Deputy Headteachers or Assistant Headteachers, 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 from 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 pupil's outer clothing, pockets, possessions, desks or lockers. Outer clothing includes:

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

Searching electronic devices

An electronic device such as a mobile phone or a tablet computer may be confiscated in appropriate circumstances in accordance with this policy. If there is good reason to suspect that the device has been, or could be used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or breach the school's behaviour policy, any data or files on the device may be searched and, where appropriate, data or files may be erased before the device is returned to its owner.

- Any search of an electronic device should be conducted in the presence of another member of staff.
- Any data or files will only be erased if there is good reason to suspect that the data or files have been, or could be used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or breach the school's behaviour policy.
- Subject to the requirements set out in KCSIE, if inappropriate material is found on an electronic device, the member of staff may delete the material, retain it as evidence of a breach of the behaviour policy or criminal offence or hand it over to the police if the material is suspected to be evidence relevant to an offence.
- If the member of staff conducting the search suspects, they may find an indecent image of a child (sometimes known as nude or semi-nude images), the member of staff should never intentionally view the image, and must never copy, print, share, store or save such images. When an incident might involve an indecent image of a child and/or video, the member of staff should confiscate the device, avoid looking at the device and refer the incident to the DSL (or deputy) as the most appropriate person to advise on the school's response.
- The DSL will follow the school's safeguarding policy and refer to the additional guidance for responding to consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images / videos, as set out in the safeguarding policy. The DSL will refer to the advice set out in the searching, screening and confiscation (advice for schools July 2022) and UKCIS guidance.

Searching students possessions

Possessions means any items that the student has or appears to have control of, including;

- 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 as identified above.

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

If there is a serious risk of harm if the search is not conducted immediately, or it is not practically possible to have another member of staff present, the search will be carried out by a single authorised member of staff.

Recording of searches

All searches will be recorded in CPOMS and the DSL will be made aware. If any safeguarding risk is found this will also be reported to the DSL immediately.

Informing parents

Parents will always be informed of any search for a prohibited item as listed in section 3. A member of staff will inform parents of what has happened, what has been found, what has been confiscated, if anything and any further actions that the school may take.

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.

If this is the case, staff will follow the schools Safeguarding Policy and speak to the DSL and together they will consider if 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, staff will contact at least 1 of the student's parents to inform them that the police are going to strip search the student before strip search takes place and ask them if 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, 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 the role of the appropriate adult).

The student's parents 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 right, entitlement 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 pupil 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 DSL. The DSL will consider if, 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.

Screening

Screening can help provide reassurance to students, staff and parents that the school is taking measures to create a calm, safe and supportive environment. The school may impose a requirement that students undergo screening for the detection of weapons at any time throughout the school day.

Screening is the use of a walk-through or hand-held metal detector to scan students for weapons before they enter the school premises.

If a pupil has a disability, the school will make any reasonable adjustments to the screening process as required.

If a student refuses to be screened, the school will consider why the student is not cooperating and will make an assessment as to whether it is necessary to conduct a search.