

Shelton Junior School



Positive Behaviour Policy

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Contents

Policy review dates and changes	2
Introduction	5
Our policy is based on the belief that:.....	5
Aims	5
Our purpose is:-	6
The Teacher’s Role	6
Rules.....	6
Golden Rules	7
Incidents after school:.....	7
Our Listening Code.....	7
Our Line up Code	7
Homework.....	8
Behaviour Guidelines	8
Movement in and around School	9
Movement Around School - Suggested Procedures for Large Groups	9
Movement Around School - Suggested Procedures for Individual Children	10
Playtime Supervision.....	10
Playground procedures (see Lunchtime Procedures).....	11
Rewards	11
General.....	12
Whole School Reward System (ClassDojo)	12
Class of the Week.....	12
Classroom Card System.....	13
Gold Star Reward	13
Sanctions	14
Sanctions Procedure	14
(Classroom teacher/teaching assistant) Use normal strategies:	15
Step 1 (Classroom teacher or adult in charge) Give a final warning:	15
Step 2 (Classroom teacher or adult in charge) Internal Time Out.....	15
Step 3 (Teacher colleague) External Classroom Time Out.....	15
Step 4 Red Report	16

Step 5 (Head/SLT) Student Support Plan	16
Step 6 (Headteacher) Internal Exclusion (up to 5 days).....	17
Step 7 (Headteacher) Fixed Short Term Exclusion (up to 5 days per term)	17
Step 8 (Headteacher) Permanent Exclusion	17
Lunchtime Procedures	18
Vulnerable children.....	18
Pupil Support Plans	18
Appendix A – Good Practice	20
Always:.....	20
Remember to:.....	20
Never:.....	21
Children’s Rights	21
Appendix C Use of Reasonable force (Key points taken directly from the DFE Guidance):	22
Who can use reasonable force?.....	22
When can reasonable force be used?.....	22
Power to search pupils without consent	23
Appendix D Other Information	24
Appendix D: Written statement of behaviour principles.....	25

Introduction

The fundamental principle of this policy is based upon the concept that all **behaviour has meaning and is a communication from the child**. Pupils should be encouraged and led to understand the consequences of their behaviours and given options of alternative behaviours from which to choose.

Our policy is based on the belief that:

- Good behaviour is not automatically learned but needs to be taught like any other curriculum area and supported by parents.
- Classroom behaviour can change and that we as teachers can assist children to manage their behaviour more effectively.
- Behaviour mistakes are learning opportunities.
- If a child has a difficulty with their behaviour this is the responsibility of the whole school not an individual teacher's responsibility
- We expect a positive and consistent approach towards every aspect of school life from all members of our school community. The full support of parents will be actively sought and welcomed.
- We will acknowledge the behaviours we want to see more of.

Aims

- For staff to project themselves as good role models, co-operating and supporting one another, and treating colleagues and pupils with courtesy, consideration and respect.
- For staff to have a high standard of pupil expectation in all aspects of work.
- For staff to try to raise the levels of pupils' self-esteem through targeted positive feedback, mutual respect and a nurturing environment.
- To provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum which is both interesting and relevant.
- To provide a varied range of teaching and learning styles to suit the needs of pupils.
- To provide an attractive learning environment and quality resources.
- To track pupil progress, set challenging though achievable targets and support children in achieving them, so that children know their efforts are valued and that progress matters.
- To encourage children to accept varying degrees of responsibility, both in and out of the classroom with the purpose of promoting independence, self-reliance and trustworthiness.
- To make provision for a happy working atmosphere in school by promoting the pastoral care of children, with staff giving support and guidance to each individual child.
- To promote among pupils, self-discipline and proper regard for authority.
- To consistently and fairly implement reward and sanctions systems.
- To encourage school/parental partnership, to promote children's education and maintain standards of behaviour.
- To develop the Shelton Superpowers leading to confident, self-assured learners.
- To encourage children to become thoughtful, caring and active citizens of their community

Our purpose is:-

- to maintain levels of excellent behaviour
- to promote excellent attitudes towards learning and self-regulation
- to provide a consistent approach in rewarding good behaviour
- to provide a consistent approach in responding to unacceptable behaviour
- to ensure that behaviour does not inhibit learning or impede potential
- to teach children how to manage their feelings, emotions and behaviour
- to promote good attitudes

The Teacher's Role

Teachers will establish consistent levels of acceptable behaviour with the support of parents, governors and management. Positive expectations, praise and reward are the key to successful classroom management. Pupils need to know how to make good choices. They need to receive consistent positive encouragement as means of motivation. They need to be taught to manage their own behaviour.

Teachers recognise that effective conditions for learning (planning, pitch, pace, participation etc) will impact positively on general classroom behaviour.

Rules

School rules are kept to an essential minimum and are included in our home/school diary. They have been developed to be meaningful to children. None are too difficult. They are all designed to develop courtesy, good manners and mutual respect. They are to protect children from injury, to care for equipment and to maintain a hygienic, healthy environment.

Anti-social behaviour is not condoned. It is essential that parents and teachers work together through discussion and action on any problems which develop.

If damage or loss is caused to school property through repeated carelessness or vandalism, parents will be asked to repay a reasonable proportion of the cost. They may choose to ask their child to contribute from their own pocket money etc. Any action, however, will be with understanding and in keeping with that of a responsible parent.

We will use a restorative approach when solving conflict, in order to repair relationships.

Golden Rules

1. **We are gentle.** We don't hurt others.
2. **We are kind and helpful.** We don't hurt anybody's feelings.
3. **We listen.** We don't interrupt.
4. **We are honest.** We don't cover up the truth.
5. **We work hard.** We don't waste our own or others' time.
6. **We look after property.** We don't waste or damage things.

These basic rules are displayed in all classrooms and corridors and regularly verbalized.

Class teachers may need to create an occasional additional rule with the children that is specific to them and their class circumstance.

Incidents after school:

Whilst the school is not responsible for the behaviour of the children outside school hours, we feel the behaviour reflects upon us. We will therefore take any incidents which occur within the community seriously and, where appropriate, will follow school procedure as written in this policy. This will usually only extend to incidents that occur on the way to or from school. However, if we are made aware of incidents at other times, we will ensure that parents are informed and supported as appropriate (see also the Anti-Bullying Policy). For example, this may include any incidents involving social media or other forms of electronic communication used outside of school.

Our Listening Code

When I am asked for my attention I:

1. Stop what I am doing
2. Put things down
3. Look at the teacher
4. Keep quiet and still
5. Listen to instructions

Our Line up Code

When I am asked to line up I:

1. Walk to my place in the line
2. Leave a person space
3. Keep my hands and my feet to myself
4. Keep quiet and still
5. Listen to instructions

Homework

Children are expected to complete homework regularly at Shelton Juniors. Children who complete their homework to a good standard and hand it in on time will be awarded with a 'Homework Hero' award each week which add 2 points to their ClassDojo weekly total. If children hand in all of their homework in on time and sign their diary to indicate that they have read three times a week, they will receive a homework certificate a small extra reward at the end of the half term.

Behaviour Guidelines

A 'no shouting' policy is in operation and shouting must not be used as a classroom management technique. However, there may be occasions when it is necessary to use a raised voice i.e. in order to re-establish control, be heard on the playground etc.

No child should ever be 'sent to the head' as a sanction, as there is no guarantee that the child will arrive or that the head will be available. If, in exceptional circumstances, a child needs to be removed from class or refuses to go to a time out location, the head should be sent for. If unavailable, the deputy or most senior staff member available should be called.

Our Use of Reasonable Force Policy (See Appendix C) clearly defines what is and is not acceptable practice should physical intervention be required. It is vital that any such intervention be reported and recorded.

If a child should run out of class for whatever reason, staff should not overreact and must never run after them. They may be placing a child in greater danger by doing so. The use of restrictive physical intervention will only be used where children are placing themselves or others in danger (See Use of Reasonable Force). The headteacher should be informed immediately if this occurs in mainstream and lessons as quickly as possible.

In most cases, the child will remain on site, stay within visual contact or quickly return. Once the child has calmed down, the head or appropriate staff member will attempt to approach the child and calmly persuade him/her to return to school and discuss the situation.

If the child refuses or leaves the site, parents should be informed immediately followed by the police. If parents and emergency contacts are unavailable the police should be informed directly.

Upon returning to school it must be made clear to the child that there is no justification for leaving the premises and alternative strategies explained i.e. voluntary 'Time Out'. As well as trying to solve the cause of the problem, the child must be left in no doubt as to the dangers they are exposing themselves to and how seriously the school views this behaviour.

Movement in and around School

All movement in and around school should be purposeful. Staff should see that all children are suitably supervised when moving around the school. Expectations of behaviour of children sent around the school with messages or to show good work should be clearly stated and frequently reinforced by appropriate rewards such as 'Shelties' when followed.

Children not behaving appropriately should be encouraged to do so; reminded of what is expected or face sanctions for repeated lapses (see Sanctions).

Example: If observed running, a child should be sent back to a stated point and be observed to walk correctly, accompanied by positive verbal feedback by the teacher or other adult such as 'There you are, you can walk sensibly. Well done!' and so on.

If observed running with a total disregard for other people or displayed work then sanctions should be brought to play (see Sanctions).

Children observed behaving appropriately, politely and considerately, i.e. holding doors, lining up quietly etc, should be thanked and praised .

Movement Around School - Suggested Procedures for Large Groups

- Call the group together using the familiar phrase: 'Can I have your attention please?'
- Give out any instructions and set expectations.
- Use and enforce 'Our Line Up Code'.
- Make sure all children are settled before setting off.
- Use set points to walk to and wait i.e. foot of stairs, corners, doors etc.
- Encourage a child to hold the door for others to pass through (thank them for this).
- Try to have no more than one class meeting at any one point at any one time.
- Walk to the left hand side of the corridor/stairs.
- Encourage children to pick up fallen articles of clothing as they pass rather than walk over them (thank /reward them for doing this).
- Think about your own position to allow maximum supervision of your group as they move around i.e. stand at corners, foot of stairs etc.
- Encourage the concept of person space. In due course this should lead to sensible self-disciplined movement around school as the children mature.

Movement Around School - Suggested Procedures for Individual Children

- Choose appropriate individuals for messages.
- Make sure messengers know that they can enter any classroom.
- Encourage the use of good manners, e.g. wait until a teacher is ready to respond, use of please and thank-you.
- Remind the messengers or those showing work of what is expected of them as they move around the school, (ensure that they do know where they are going).

Playtime Supervision

Teachers and teaching assistants are required to perform supervisory duties including playtime supervision. A minimum of 4 staff members are required to supervise playtimes for each morning break on the playground. Supply teachers should cover the duty of absent teachers but should never be without support.

In the morning, teachers will be in their classrooms by 8:45am. At the end of the day, all staff need to ensure their pupils have been collected or have left the premises before leaving the playground.

All staff should be fully aware of playtime procedures, rules, sanctions and rewards and apply them consistently.

When on duty, staff should circulate and take the opportunity to socialise with children from other classes, whilst maintaining an overview of the play area and spotting potential problems before they escalate.

At the end of break the teacher on duty will ring the bell and wait for children to stop.

Children will be sent in a year group at a time. Good behaviour whilst entering school should be reinforced with praise and/or the awarding of Shelties.

In suitable weather conditions the field may be used at lunchtimes. This is the decision of staff on duty.

In poor weather, duty staff may decide that children should not go outside at break time. In these circumstances teachers remain responsible for the supervision of their own classes. They may decide to; work through and allow a later playtime if there is a break in the weather, or allow an indoor playtime with suitable, quiet activities provided for children. It is permissible for teams to share supervision of indoor play allowing teachers a staggered break, provided that classes are never left unsupervised. Teaching assistants should release class teachers for a break.

Playground procedures (see Lunchtime Procedures)

In order to influence behaviour when dismissing children at playtime, lunchtime and home time teachers should supervise their own children in the corridor, putting on coats etc. Children are not allowed back into the school building during playtimes or lunchtimes unless they have been given permission, children are not allowed to remain in the building unsupervised unless they have 'Gold Star Status'.

Children may not bring balls or equipment from home for use at playtimes but may use those supplied by the school. Any misuse of playground equipment will lead to confiscation.

Any other behaviour at playtime should be dealt with by the teachers on duty, or reported to a senior member of staff according to severity or frequency, (refer to Playtime Sanctions).

Any child needing medical attention at playtime will be sent to the reception area to be dealt with by a member of the staff with first aid training.

After playtime all children can be reminded that playtime is over and that a change in behaviour is expected in and around school (i.e. indoor voices).

Rewards

It is very important that praise and reward should have great emphasis. Children will achieve more, be better motivated and behave better, when staff commend and reward their successes rather than focus on their failure. **Pay attention to what you want to see more of.**

Praise has a reinforcing and motivational role. It helps a child believe he/she is valued. Praise can be delivered in formal and informal ways, in public or in private; it can be awarded to individuals or to groups; it can be earned for the steady maintenance of good standards as well as for particular achievements.

General

- Favourable comments can and should be entered on pieces of work, (see Marking Policy).
- Effort towards learning is also rewarded through the use of stamps and stickers in books.
- Written School Reports should comment favourably on good work, behaviour, involvement in and general attitude to school life.
- Recognition can be given to success of differing kinds in assemblies, e.g. presentation of swimming and cycling proficiency awards etc.
- Children's work can/should be displayed as much as possible both in the classroom and corridors of the school.
- A visit to the Headteacher for commendations.
- Specific privileges can be awarded to individuals/groups of children, e.g. in the use of school facilities, (computers, library, games equipment, etc.).
- Opportunities for giving children greater responsibility in school should be fostered e.g. Playtime Pals, Monitors, School's Council etc.
- Above all, praise and encouragement in and out of lessons should be used as much as possible.

Whole School Reward System (ClassDojo)

As well as the rewards listed above, the school has designed and adopted a consistent approach for rewarding and encouraging good behaviour, effort and manners based on the collection of Dojo Points. These are linked explicitly to showing good learning attitudes. In addition to Dojo points, Class teachers can also run personal reward systems to reward things such as:

- Particularly good work/effort.
- Displaying good manners.
- Displaying a caring attitude towards others.
- Staying on task etc.

However, the whole school system takes precedence and must be adhered to.

Once awarded, a Dojo point can never be deducted (see Sanctions). They are intended to help staff focus on positive rather than negative behaviour e.g. if a child is continuing to stay on task when a partner is trying to distract him, staff may choose to reward the child on task rather than apply a sanction to the child who is not.

Class of the Week

In addition to individual awards, class weekly total of Class Dojo points will be reviewed in each Friday celebration assembly. The class with the highest score earn 15 minutes of Golden Time which they can use or bank.

Classroom Card System

This system will be used in every classroom throughout school. Its consistent use is essential in ensuring its success as a system and it forms an integral part of both the rewards and sanctions systems:

Gold	Consistently demonstrating Shelton SuperPowers, excellent effort and following of rules. Setting an excellent example. Showing an excellent attitude to learning and a desire to challenge themselves consistently.
Silver	Above and beyond the expectations at Green.
Green	Being 'Ready to Learn'. This will need to be regularly reinforced and re-visited. These are the minimum expectations we have for all pupils at all times. All children will begin on Green each morning.
Yellow	Following a verbal warning (see sanctions)
Orange	Second warning (see sanctions)
Red	Taken to a senior member of staff (see sanctions)

All children return to Green each morning.

Gold Star Reward

Any child who has been on the Gold card three times in any one week will be given a Lanyard during assembly on a Friday. Children whose behaviour and attitudes are consistently excellent are then given responsibilities and privileges to recognise and reward this. Gold star status will be given for one week (although it can be removed if that is deemed necessary) and entitles the wearer to access areas of the school during break times and lunchtimes e.g. the library, ICT suite, own classroom (with agreement of teacher). Children need to hand back the badges to their class teacher on a Friday. If a member of staff finds a child in one of these areas who does not have a lanyard, they must be told to return to the playground and it should be recorded in the 'playtime book.'

Sanctions

In the use of sanctions, pupils learn from experience to expect fair and consistently applied consequences which differentiate between serious and minor offences. Sanctions are applied consistently by all staff, but with the provision for flexibility to take account of individual circumstances. We should be consistent in our principles but flexible in our approaches.

Sanctions are seen as a 'last resort' once all the previously mentioned strategies have been applied. We can recognise that sanctions do not have the long term positive impact on behaviour that positive reinforcement does but does accept that ultimately, when all other options have been explored, they may have to be implemented.

Note See also our policy on the 'Use of Force'.

- If behaviour results in physical or verbal abuse towards a teacher/adult a report will be added to CPOMs
- If physical intervention of any kind is required then a physical intervention incident report should be entered onto CPOMs as soon as possible
- Any other incident deemed 'serious' or resulting in significant injury should also be recorded on CPOMs.

We have an agreed system of sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. Responses range from polite reminders to permanent exclusion, and are intended to:

- Provide clarity and consistency of suitable responses.
- Minimise disruption to others especially teaching and learning time.
- Provide every opportunity for children to correct their own behaviour, make sensible choices and prevent further sanctions being applied.
- Allow early involvement of parents, line managers, SENCO and support agencies.
- Do everything reasonably possible to avoid exclusion from school.

When sanctions are applied, children should be helped to understand why what they have done is not acceptable. Express your displeasure with the **action** and never the **child** i.e. 'That was a silly thing to do because...' and not 'You are a silly boy'. **It is important to remember that the behaviour is the problem, not the child.**

Sanctions Procedure

Children should be familiar with our procedures and know what will happen next if they refuse the sanction or continue with the behaviour. Careful use of language is essential in helping to deal with poor behaviour. Use the language of limited choice e.g. 'if you continue to do....., you are choosing to.....(inform them of the sanction here)'. Do not enter into negotiation as this usually escalates a situation. Maintain a calm and measured voice. Give the choices and walk away to give the child time and space to consider their response.

Professional judgement is required regarding which step best reflects the most suitable sanction given the behaviour displayed. **Depending on the nature of the offence this may include immediate, permanent exclusion.** However, as a general rule for minor misdemeanours, the following sequence should be adhered to, with steps 1 and 2 being compulsory.

If unacceptable behaviour occurs:

(Classroom teacher/teaching assistant)

Use normal strategies:

e.g. Polite but firm requests, warnings (no more than three). Consider repositioning, separating etc.

Step 1 (Classroom teacher or adult in charge)

Give a final warning:

Use the agreed phrase, 'This is your final warning. Do you understand?', place their name on the Yellow card.

Children should be fully aware of what this means and the possible consequences of continuing with the behaviour.

FROM NOW ON NO MORE WARNINGS. TAKE ACTION

If behaviour improves, teacher may move child back to green. If not, move on to Step 2.

Step 2 (Classroom teacher or adult in charge)

Internal Time Out

Child sent to designated chair/area of classroom.

- 5-10 minutes working alone in order to reflect, calm down etc without causing disturbance.
- Teacher records when a child has had an internal classroom isolation.

If behaviour improves return to lesson. If not or if child refuses, move to **Step 3 and place name on orange card.**

Teacher will inform parents that child has received this sanction and why.

Step 3 (Teacher colleague)

External Classroom Time Out

- Child escorted to designated colleague.
- Up to 1 hour/session working alone without causing disturbance.
- **Appropriate work must be sent with the child to the partner class.**
- Possible removal of a treats / playtime.
- Teacher completes an ABC behaviour record

If behaviour improves, return to class. If not or if child refuses, move to Step 4.

Teacher will inform parents that child has received this sanction and why.

If a child is sent to you for Time Out, that is their sanction. You do not need to engage with them beyond directing them to the time out table and ensuring they are there for their allocated period of time.

If a child regularly gets to step two or three, the class teacher will put additional support into place to encourage desired behaviours, eg target sheet linked to Dojo rewards or stickers.

Edale	Chatsworth
Eyam	Matlock
Dovedale	Tissington
Carsington	Bakewell
Cromford	Buxton

Step 4

Red Report

This sanction will also be used without the previous steps for significant behaviour issues such as those involving physical or verbal abuse. In these cases, an ABC record will be completed and uploaded onto CPOMs

- Child put on red
- Child escorted to the designated colleague.
- Up to 1 hour/session working alone without causing disturbance.
- **Appropriate work must be sent with the child to the partner class**
- A red report will be prepared
- Parents informed by teacher
- Dinner staff informed by teacher
- Parents are also contacted daily during the red report period
- At the end of each day the child discusses their red report with a member of SLT

Step 5 (Head/SLT)

Student Support Plan

- SSP Meeting with Head or Deputy (when available), teacher and parents/child to agree the way forward.
- Clear/realistic targets for behaviour agreed (maximum of three).
- Clear rewards/consequences identified for success/failure (including possible exclusion).
- Teacher provides daily feedback to child (x 5), weekly feedback to parents.

- A behaviour tally sheet will be completed to record all behaviour incidents and significant ones will be recorded on CPOMs.
- Involvement of all necessary agencies, i.e. Behaviour Support, Educational Psychologist etc.
- Referral to Shelton inclusion team if appropriate to consider Early Help Assessment and Family Support Worker.
- SSP to last a minimum of 2 weeks/a maximum of 20 weeks, and reviewed fortnightly

If targets are achieved, remove from SSP. If SSP failed, move to **Step 6**.

In certain circumstances for a one off incident of a serious nature, step 6 or 7 can be used instantly.

Step 6 (Headteacher)

Internal Exclusion (up to 5 days)

If appropriate, this step may be skipped.

- Child has no contact with own class or classmates.
- Teacher provides work for child to complete independently.
- No access to playground, extra-curricular or enrichment activity.
- Parents, Governors, Behaviour Support informed by letter if appropriate.
- LA informed of likelihood of external exclusion if appropriate.

*If behaviour improves return to class with SSP. If not move to **Step 7**.*

Step 7 (Headteacher)

Fixed Short Term Exclusion (up to 5 days per term)

- Parents, Governors, LA informed
- Parents may make representations to Governors.
- Pupil Discipline Committee may meet but cannot reinstate.
- Upon return to school, child has SSP for a minimum of 2 weeks.

*If behaviour improves remove from report to SSP. If not move to **Step 8**.*

Step 8 (Headteacher)

Permanent Exclusion

- Parents, Governors, LA informed
- Discipline Committee meet and consider all representations and reports (parents/child may attend).
- Discipline Committee either reinstate or uphold exclusion.
- Parents notified of right to appeal.
- If appeal successful, or reinstated child stays on SSP for the maximum 20 weeks.
- If appeal unsuccessful, remove child from school roll.

Serious incidents need to be treated on an individual basis and the circumstances investigated.

In exceptional circumstances, permanent exclusion may be considered for a first or 'one off' offence. These may include:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff;
- Sexual abuse or assault;
- Supplying an illegal drug;
- Carrying an offensive weapon;
- Serious deliberate damage to school property.

Lunchtime Procedures

Alternative systems for rewards and sanctions are used during unstructured times of the day at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Vulnerable children

A small minority of our pupils (referred to as Tier 3) will require a considerable amount of input in order to help them manage their behaviour and attitudes. If we can predict the behaviour, we can prevent it. Before we can predict it, we need to understand the reasons behind it. All behaviour has an 'I message' attached to it. By identifying the Antecedent, Behaviour and Consequence, we not only de-personalise the behaviour but we can start to recognize patterns that may trigger poor behaviour. Some children face levels of stress outside school that they find it very hard to cope without certain levels of stimulation. Shouting, punishment and anger may be what they feel comfortable with as it is what their day to day context is based upon.

Children who require further support for managing their behaviour have individual Student Support Plans (SSPs) which are constantly reviewed and revised. Parents will be kept informed of, and contribute to their child's individual Student Support Plan and the progress which they are making towards these. Behaviour incidents are regularly recorded using CPOMs. Staff have regular meetings to discuss behaviour patterns, strategies and plans.

In these exceptional circumstances, the school will make every effort to avoid exclusion. It is vitally important that parents are informed and involved when behaviour targets are agreed in order to establish possible causes and form a partnership of support.

Regular communication between home and school as well as daily feedback to the child regarding progress is essential. This can be achieved through the use of:

Communication books, regular meetings, emails, texts or telephone calls.

Pupil Support Plans

- Should provide limited (maximum of three) unambiguous and, above all, **achievable** targets for the child's behaviour e.g. "To stay on task at all times" is not a realistic target for the best behaved child let alone a troubled child.

- Should provide clear consequences for breaking the agreement e.g. exclusion.
- If in doubt, consult a senior teacher.
- Daily feedback on progress should be given and targets reviewed fortnightly either:
 - to make targets more difficult as behaviour improves,
 - to set new areas to tackle or
 - to remove completely from report.

Appendix A – Good Practice

At Shelton Junior School we recognise the importance of a consistent professional response to all pupil behaviours.

- Provide take up time
- Encourage professional language as opposed to emotional
- Promote confidence to say things you want to say
- Let children know we are trying to understand
- Create opportunities to scaffold / model more appropriate behaviour
- Promote verbal communication
- Provide pupils with a vocabulary to describe feelings
- Support adults faced with continuing stressful and frustrating situations
- Enable pupils to make “an informed choice”
- Emphasise the positive behaviours desired

The quality of teaching and the organisation of the physical environment have a considerable effect on children’s behaviour. We use the Charlie Taylor behaviour checklist as a guide.

Always:

1. Create an interesting, stimulating and attractive classroom environment.
2. Provide an ordered environment in which everything has a place. Children should know where materials/equipment are and how to treat them with respect.
3. Make sure the children know what they are doing and that their work is matched to their ability.
4. Be aware of what is going on around you.
5. Do not be static.
6. Do not let children queue.

Remember that problems are normal when children are learning and testing the boundaries of acceptable behaviour.

Remember to:

- Set high standards
- Apply rules firmly and fairly
- Smile and relate
- Avoid confrontation
- Listen
- Stay calm
- Use humour
- Know the children as individuals
- Look out for good behaviour

- Praise quickly and consistently
- Praise the behaviour rather than the child

We do have a choice in how we behave, we can either give pupils a negative experience by using sarcasm, ridicule and humiliation which tends to destroy their self esteem. Or, we can give them a positive experience which will build their self-esteem.

Never:

Humiliate	-	it breeds resentment
Shout	-	it diminishes you
Over react	-	the problem will grow
Use blanket punishment	-	the innocent will resent you
Over punish	-	never punish what you cannot prove

Children's Rights

- To be looked after by caring adults
- To be taught well
- To be able to rely on an atmosphere conducive to learning
- To be made to feel welcome
- Not to be talked down to
- To feel as important as anyone else
- Not to be smacked or shaken
- Not to be bullied
- Not to hear swear words

Appendix C

Use of Reasonable force

(Key points taken directly from the DFE Guidance):

School staff have the power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action.

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
4. As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
5. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
6. School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Who can use reasonable force?

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.

This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

When can reasonable force be used?

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools cannot:

- use force as a punishment - it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Power to search pupils without consent

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, headteachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following “prohibited items”

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

Any use of reasonable force acknowledges the legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

At Shelton Junior School we believe that parent-school partnership is an essential part of the school behaviour policy. We ask that parents support us in our decisions and know that we are always willing to discuss concerns and offer advice.

Appendix D

Other Information

This policy enables Shelton Junior School to carry out our functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children under sections 175 and 157 of the Education Act (2002). The policy is in line with the following legislation and guidance:

- Derby City Council – Pupil Exclusion Procedures
- Working Together to safeguard Children (2015)
- Keeping children safe in education (2016)
- Information Sharing (2015)
- Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures

Please refer to Shelton Junior School’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which is written in line with DCSB Safeguarding procedures.

Data will be processed in line with the requirements and protections set out in the General Data Protection Regulation.

Other policies related to this can be found on the school website (Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, E-Safety Policy, Exclusion Policy)

Please note this policy is also written following the DfE guidance on Behaviour and Discipline in Schools 2016.

Appendix D: Written statement of behaviour principles

- Every pupil understands they have the right to feel safe, valued and respected, and learn free from the disruption of others
- All pupils, staff and visitors are free from any form of discrimination
- Staff and volunteers set an excellent example to pupils at all times
- Rewards, sanctions and reasonable force are used consistently by staff, in line with the behaviour policy
- The behaviour policy is understood by pupils and staff
- The behaviour policy explains that exclusions will only be used as a last resort, and outlines the processes involved in permanent and fixed-term exclusions
- Pupils are helped to take responsibility for their actions
- Families are involved in behaviour incidents to foster good relationships between the school and pupils' home life
- The governing board also emphasises that violence or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated in any circumstances.
- Maintained schools, pupil referral units and non-maintained special schools insert: