



## Governors' Written Statement of Behaviour Principles

Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the governing body is charged with the duty to set the framework of the school's policy by providing a written statement of general principles relating to behaviour and discipline, taking into account the needs of all pupils. The purpose of this statement is to give guidance to the Head teacher in drawing up the behaviour policy by stating the principles which governors expect to be followed. The policy aims to underpin the governors' duty of care to pupils and employees: promote teaching and learning and high standards of attainment and preserve the reputation of the school. The statement is available from the school and can be found on the schools' web site. It is also held in the school office. This statement and the behaviour policy will be reviewed on a three yearly basis, unless changes at national or local level necessitate and exceptional review. This statement is informed by our mission and value statements:

**St. Gerard's Catholic Primary & Nursery School**  
**"Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School**  
**is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope,**  
**dream and achieve."**

Our mission statement is encapsulated in our aims and objectives which underpin all aspects of school life: Aims:  
We aim to:

- Foster communication and co-operation between home, school and parish
- Foster in a Catholic setting the acquisition of skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed for life
- Foster in all pupils' self-esteem and a sense of self-worth, respect for themselves and the needs of others
- Foster in pupils a respect of God's world
- Ensure that pupils have equal access to all areas of the curriculum without discrimination
- Support and encourage pupils and staff (teaching and non-teaching) to develop personally, spiritually and professionally.
- We the governing body of St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, believe that all members of our school community should be able to learn and achieve their full potential in a safe, secure and orderly environment. We believe that each pupil should be given every opportunity to take responsibility for and to make a full contribution to improving behaviour in school. We value the strong relationships that exist throughout the school, which leads to the mutual respect that encourages good behaviour, We have high expectations of everyone and we will actively promote equality of value whether race, gender, age, sexuality, religion or disability. The behaviour policy is based on our beliefs in, and respect for, the value and contribution of all members of our community and their right to succeed. We seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying.
- The policy will be applied with consistency and fairness, with regard to each individual situation. The emphasis will be on encouraging positive behaviour through high expectations; a focus on learning; and praise and rewards. It is recognised however, that on occasions sanctions are necessary to demonstrate that misbehaviour is not acceptable; to express the disapproval of the school community and to deter other pupils from similar behaviour. Sanctions will enable the pupil to reflect on, and learn from, their behaviours and to make reparation wherever possible. Because of our focus on positive behaviours and the opportunities for pupils to learn from their mistakes, we expect lower than the national average rates of exclusion.
- Some pupils, for example those with Special educational needs, physical or mental health needs, and looked after pupils can experience particular difficulties with behaviour and the school will seek to ensure that such pupils receive support according to their needs. However, when making decisions the school must balance the needs of the individual with those of the school community and where pupil behaviour places others at risk, the safety of the pupil body as a whole is paramount. Similarly, given the overriding need to keep children safe, the school will utilise their powers to search and to use reasonable force in order to keep individual from harming, or further harming, themselves or others.

Given the importance of the safety of the pupil body, the Governing body support the right of the school to exclude for a single offence where it is considered that allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school. We work with parents and carers to understand their children and their circumstances and believe this relationship is an important part in building a strong learning community. Similarly, given our duty of care to the pupils, this written statement and the policies that both stem and are influenced by it (for example behaviour, anti-bullying and restraint) applies to all pupils when in school, when travelling to and from school, and when engaged in extra-curricular activities such as educational trips and visits (residential and non-residential) and when being educated as a member of St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School off-site.