Governors' Written Statement of Behaviour Principles

Audience	Governors Staff Parents
Co-ordinated by	Chair of Governors
Date written / reviewed	June 2025
Date of next review	June 2026
To be reviewed by	Curriculum & Inclusion and Chair of Governors
Associated Governing Body Committee	Discussed at Inclusion Ratified by Finance

Our vision is to create and inclusive environment where every child matters.

School aims

- To provide a high standard of education in a stimulating, varied environment in which children can learn effectively;
- To create a caring atmosphere in which children are taught good citizenship, are happy and encouraged to act independently and foster self discipline;
- To encourage the children to co-operate with, understand and care for others from all backgrounds and abilities, thus children are guided into responsibility not only for their own development but also that of the whole school family;
- To ensure that every child, whatever their ability, has the right and opportunity to attend our school with appropriate resources and support wherever possible, and to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- To create, maintain and develop a physical and emotional atmosphere where children are stimulated to develop powers of observation and lively enquiring minds;
- To develop an understanding of decision-making and the need for rules, maintaining a continuous effort to improve standards for the general good and success of all.

Under Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the Governing Body of Greswold Primary School is required to make and review a written Statement of Behaviour Principles. The Headteacher and staff should use these principles in preparing the school's legally compulsory Behaviour Policy. This document is that written Statement and has been prepared with reference to the 'Behaviour and discipline in schools – Guidance for governing bodies' document issued by the Department for Education (July 2013 edition).

Power to discipline beyond the school gates

Staff have the authority to discipline pupils for misbehaviour which occurs in school and, in some circumstances, outside of school when the pupil is:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- wearing school uniform or
- in some way identifiable as a pupil at the school, including online.
- poses a threat to another pupil
- adversely affecting the reputation of the school

In all cases of misbehaviour, the staff member can only discipline the pupil on school premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the staff member.

The headteacher may limit the authority to apply particular sanctions to certain staff and/or extend the power to discipline to adult volunteers, for example to parents who have volunteered to help on a school trip. The authority to discipline also applies to all paid staff (unless the headteacher says otherwise) with responsibility for pupils, such as teaching assistants.

Sanctions follow the following three conditions:

1) The decision to sanction a pupil must be made by a paid member of school staff or a member of staff authorised by the headteacher.
2) The decision to sanction the pupil and the sanction itself must be made on the school premises or while the pupil is under the charge of the member of staff.
3) It must not breach any other legislation (e.g. In respect of disability, special educational needs, and race and other equalities and human rights) and it must be reasonable in all the circumstances.

Sanctions are proportionate with account taken of the pupil's age, any special educational needs or disability they may have, and any religious requirements affecting them. Children who have specific individual needs, which propose alternative means of managing behaviour, will be managed according to the plan. However, the sanctions will remain the same for all pupils.

Behaviour incidents online

Many online incidents amongst young people occur outside of the school day and off the school premises. While parents are responsible for this behaviour, school staff can sanction pupils when their behaviour online poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Power to use reasonable force and other physical contact

Staff only intervene physically to restrain children or to prevent injury if a child is in danger of hurting him/herself or injuring others. The actions that we take are in line with government guidelines on the restraint of children. Further detail can be found in Greswold's Use of Physical Intervention Policy.

Members of staff have the authority to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.

Headteachers and authorised school staff may also use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence of cause harm.

In those cases where particular physical intervention techniques are identified as being necessary for particular pupils, the Governors expect individual pupil behaviour management plans to be drawn up.

Screening and Searching Pupils

When necessary, staff authorised by the Headteacher are able to search pupils' property.

There are two sets of legal provisions which enable school staff to confiscate items from pupils:

1) **The general authority to discipline** Staff can confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a punishment, so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. The law protects staff from liability for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items provided they have acted lawfully. Confiscated items will be locked in the school office.

2) **Authority to search without consent** for "prohibited items" including: 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, any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

Weapons, knives, controlled drugs, other substances, stolen items and extreme or child pornography must always be handed over to the police. Alcohol, tobacco, cigarette papers or fireworks should be retained or destroyed. Otherwise it is for the teacher to decide if and when to return a confiscated item.

Pastoral care for school staff

In the event of an allegation of misconduct against a member of staff, the Headteacher should draw on advice given in the Managing Allegations policy when setting out the pastoral support school staff can expect to receive if they are accused of misusing their powers.