

Behaviour: Statement of Principles

This Statement has been drawn up in accordance with the following documents:

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff September 2022

'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (updated September 2022)

School suspensions and permanent exclusions (September 2022).

Document Control

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Revisions

Version	Page/Para No.	Description of Change	Approved
5	1 & 2	Re writing of the Principles section	January 2025

Meridian Trust exists to provide, support, and champion high-quality education at the heart of local communities.

As members of Meridian Trust family, academies aim to unite their pupils, families and other local stakeholders around this common purpose to share experience and resources, to improve standards and to maximise our contribution to their wider communities. Our vision, mission and values guide and bring together each of the trust's academies.

Our Vision: High-quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities

Our Mission: To deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in schools at the heart of their local communities so that:

- Every child is a successful learner, confident individual and responsible and employable citizen
- Every school is a hub for community activities, a center for extended services and a source of immense pride for students, their families and other local stakeholders

Our Values: All academies model and support the Meridian Trust Mission: 'Providing high quality educational vision at the heart of local communities.

The purpose of this 'Statement of Behaviour Principles' is to provide guidance for the Principal, of each Academy in drawing up the academy's 'Behaviour Policy' so that it reflects the shared aspirations and beliefs of academy councillors, staff and parents for the pupils and students in the academy as well as taking full account of law and guidance on behaviour matters.

It is intended to help all academy staff to be aware of and understand the extent of their powers in respect of discipline and sanctions and how to use them. Staff should be confident that they have the academy councillors' support when following this guidance.

This is a Statement of Behaviour Principles, not practice: it is the responsibility of the principal to draw up the academy's local behaviour policy, though they must take account of these principles when formulating this. The Behaviour Policy must be publicised, in writing, to staff, parents/carers and pupils at least once a year and be available on individual academies websites.

Principles

Meridian Trust is committed to ensuring that:

- Every child has the right to learn, but no child has the right to disrupt the learning of others.
- Everyone has a right to be listened to, to be valued, to feel and be safe. Everyone must be protected from disruption or abuse.
- All academies are an inclusive setting; all members of the school community should be free from discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- It is expected that all adults – staff, volunteers, and academy councillors – will always set excellent examples to the pupils and students.
- All academies consistently promote high standards of behaviour and provide necessary support to ensure all young people can achieve and thrive both in and out of school, adopting a zero-indifference approach to understanding behaviour.
- Children and young people will be taught explicitly what good behaviour looks like in their school.
- We seek to give every child a sense of personal responsibility for their own actions and understand that some children and young people will need additional support to reach the expected standard of behaviour.
- The school's Behaviour Policy will ensure that there are measures to encourage good behaviour, self-discipline, and respect, and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils; it also provides guidance on use of reasonable force.

- Where there are significant and/or persistent concerns over a pupil's behaviour, a therapeutic approach will be used to assess, plan, deliver and then review the impact of support put in place, working with parents to strive for common strategies between home and school.
- The school will seek advice and support from appropriate outside agencies where concerns arise over a child's behaviour.
- The School's Behaviour Policy will clearly reflect the school's approach to suspensions or exclusions.
- The school will fulfil its' legal duties in respect of safeguarding children with special educational needs and all vulnerable children.