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Education South West (ESW) Behaviour and Culture Policy

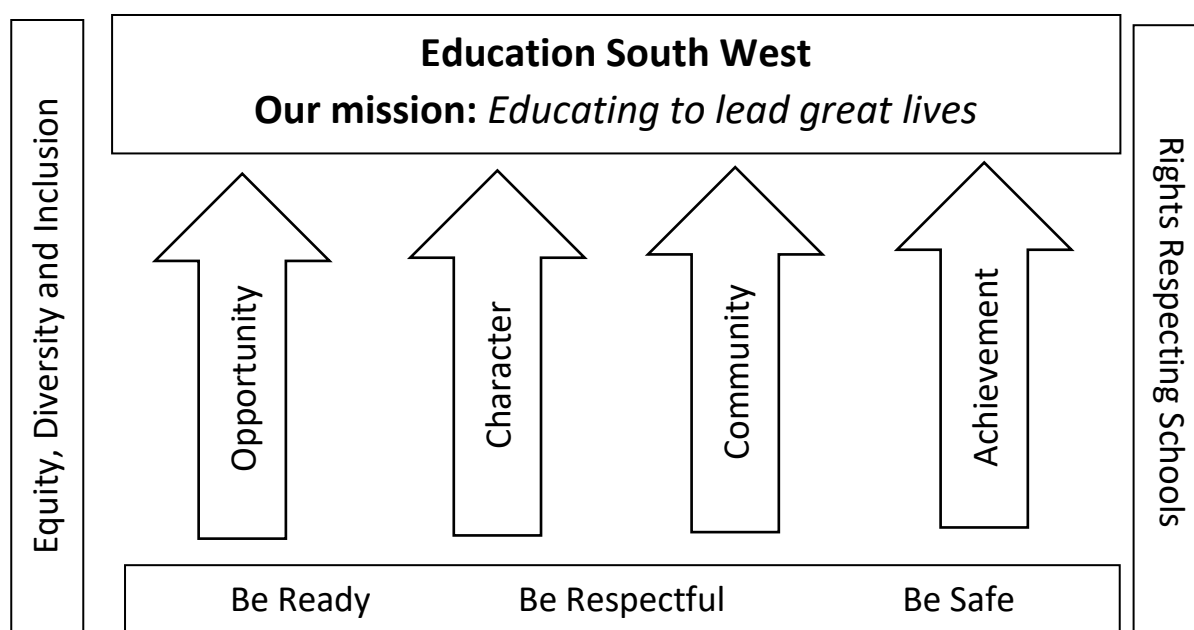
Part A: The ESW approach to behaviour and culture in our schools

A1. Vision, values and ethos in an ESW school:

The culture of our schools is built upon a unifying belief that we are '*educating to lead great lives*'. This mission statement is further embedded in the pillars (values) of our Trust - Opportunity, Character, Community and Achievement.

In order for children and young people to belong, thrive and achieve in our schools we aim to create a culture built upon the same core principles – be ready, be respectful, be safe.

We believe that if we embed the principles of ready, respectful and safe in every school we will create orderly and calm environments. These environments will minimise distraction and disruption enabling every pupil to belong, thrive and succeed through learning.



A2. The role of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in our school culture:

EDI are key concepts in creating fair and supportive environments across our schools for children and young people, families and staff. EDI sits at the heart of every policy.

Our working definition of EDI:

- **Equity:** This involves ensuring fair treatment, opportunities, and advancement while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. It's about providing varying levels of support based on individual needs to achieve fairness in outcomes.
- **Diversity:** This refers to the presence of differences within a given setting. In the workplace, it includes differences in race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation, as well as other attributes like socio-economic background and neurodiversity.

- **Inclusion:** This is about creating environments where any individual or group can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued. It's about fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring that everyone can participate fully and equally.

These principles are not only about compliance with legal standards, such as the Equality Act 2010, but also about fostering a culture where everyone can thrive. The Trust recognises that equality does not always mean identical treatment. Reasonable adjustments will be made, where appropriate, to ensure pupils are not disadvantaged because of disability or additional needs, whilst maintaining high expectations for all.

A3. The role of Rights Respecting Schools in developing our school culture:

As Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) we integrate the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into our ethos and policies, including our behaviour and culture policies. Here are some key ways they link:

- **Positive relationships:** RRS focuses on building positive relationships between pupils, families and staff. Behaviour policies in these schools emphasise respect, dignity, and non-discrimination, fostering a supportive environment.
- **Student participation:** Pupils are actively involved in creating and reviewing our school behaviour policies. This includes working with the very youngest pupils as well as the oldest. This participation ensures that policies reflect their views and needs, promoting a sense of ownership and responsibilities.
- **Restorative practices:** Restorative practices are used alongside sanctions and interventions. RRS often use restorative practices to resolve conflicts. This approach encourages pupils to understand the impact of their actions and work towards repairing harm. Restorative approaches do not replace appropriate sanctions where these are necessary.
- **Rights education:** Behaviour policies are aligned with educating pupils about their rights and responsibilities. This education helps pupils understand the importance of respecting others' rights, leading to better behaviour overall.
- **Wellbeing focus:** By prioritising children's rights, RRS creates a safe and nurturing environment. This focus on wellbeing is reflected in behaviour policies that aim to support rather than punish pupils.

A4. ESW Behaviour and Culture Policies have a set of guiding principles:

The guiding principles which underpin all behaviour management in our schools are in line with our mission to '*educate to lead great lives*':

- **Behaviour is a form of communication:** We assume that most behaviour is a form of communication. We meet this need through wellbeing support and the graduated response which underpins our Trust Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy and processes. The core needs of pupils with SEND are met through the Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision (OAIP) in each school.
- **Every interaction is an intervention:** Every interaction between staff and students is an opportunity to positively influence behaviour, learning, and wellbeing. This approach emphasises the importance of using daily interactions to support pupils' development, mental health, and relationships, while also addressing behaviour through understanding and restorative practices.

- **Consistency is key:** Clear expectations and consistent responses to behaviour create a predictable and safe environment in which all young people can learn and thrive. All pupils need consistency and none more so than those with protected characteristics including those pupils with additional needs (SEND) or those who experience poverty (Disadvantage).
- **Relentless routines:** Simple, repeated routines which are explicitly laid down by school leaders and are taught and upheld by all adults, help establish a positive culture of behaviour in which all children can thrive and belong. Routines help maintain the high expectations needs for all pupils to learn and achieve.
- **First attention to best conduct:** We prioritise recognising and celebrating positive behaviour over focusing on poor behaviour. This positively framed approach builds the sense of belonging all pupils have with their school community.
- **Restorative practices:** Mistakes are learning opportunities. Restorative conversations help repair relationships and rebuild trust alongside sanctions and interventions where necessary. Restorative practices can help repair relationships and promote better future conduct.
- **Emotionally intelligent:** Adults model emotional regulation and positive behaviours for pupils to emulate. All interactions with children and young people are positively framed through our key rules (see below).

The individual behaviour and culture policies in each of our schools (PART B) are underpinned by these core principles. Furthermore:

A5. ESW Behaviour expectations apply to all members of the school community. These include:

- Showing **respect** for themselves, others, and the school environment.
- Acting with **kindness and consideration** in their interactions.
- Taking **responsibility** for their actions and decisions.
- Striving to **achieve** their best in all areas of school life.

A6. These expectations are summarised in our three rules:

1. Be **ready**
2. Be **respectful**
3. Be **safe**

A7. Legislation, statutory requirements and statutory guidance

Each of our individual school policies are based on legislation and advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- [Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff 2024](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#)

- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#)
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

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](#) explaining that academies should publish their behaviour policy and anti-bullying strategy

A8. Monitoring and Evaluation of Part A – reflected in Trust and school monitoring

The implementation of this policy will be regularly reviewed through:

- Observations of staff consistency during the annual peer review cycle
- Student, parent/carer and staff feedback.
- Analysis of behaviour data to identify patterns and inform interventions.
- Ofsted inspections

By adopting these principles and practices, we aim to create a school culture where all pupils feel they belong, can learn effectively, and grow into responsible, respectful, and resilient individuals.

A9. Governance and Responsibility

The responsibilities for this policy and the school behaviour policy (Part B) are:

- Trust board approves Part A
- CEO ensures implementation across the Trust
- Executive leaders monitor consistency
- Headteachers implement the policy through Part B
- Local governing bodies (where applicable) monitor implementation
- Staff are responsible for applying the policy consistently