

# St Vincent's School for Blind and Partially Sighted Children

Policy Document Title:	Code of Conduct, Discipline, Rewards and Sanctions for Pupils
To be read in conjunction with:	Anti-Bullying Policy Positive Handling Policy Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy Child Protection Procedures Smoking and Alcohol Policy Staff handbook
Updated:	07/09 SR
To be reviewed:	07/10

## *St Vincent's School Mission Statement:*

*Inspired by the example of St Vincent, we work together in a safe and caring atmosphere, where a high standard of education and care are provided.*

*We encourage a sense of achievement, self worth, moral responsibility and mutual respect, honouring all faith traditions and beliefs. Each one of us in our community is special and unique. Gifts and talents are valued and nurtured through all our work.*

*We are outward looking in our approach to the wider educational and social community and we encourage all our young people to become independent and to integrate fully into society.*

## **Philosophy**

- ❖ Discipline in St Vincent's is built on mutual respect, Staff to Staff, Staff to Pupils, Pupils to Staff and Staff to Parents. Staff and pupils treat others, as they would wish to be treated themselves.
- ❖ Certain norms of behaviour are expected - courtesy demands that Pupils and Staff address each other cordially and with respect.
- ❖ All members of Staff, Visitors and Guests, are treated with equal respect whatever their position. All should be addressed with the prefix Mr, Mrs or Miss, with the exception of residential care workers who are addressed by their forenames.
- ❖ Rules are few and need to be understood as necessary for the smooth running of the school.

- ❖ We recognise the additional vulnerability of all our pupils as defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children. 2006.*

## **Bullying**

Bullying at any level is totally against the ethos of the school and will be dealt with firmly and immediately. The School has a separate Anti-Bullying Policy.

## **Smoking, Illegal Substances and Alcohol**

The school is a no smoking site and as such smoking on school premises is strictly forbidden. Any pupil found smoking or in possession of cigarettes or matches will be excluded. The possession or use of illegal substances or alcohol is also strictly forbidden and may result in exclusion. (See Smoking and Alcohol policy with respect to pupils who are eighteen years of age.)

## **Order**

- ❖ Everyone walks to the left on the corridors and on the stairs and not more than two abreast. Single file on stairs.
- ❖ Noise on the corridors is kept to a minimum, as noise is very disorientating for persons who are visually impaired.
- ❖ Jumping down stairs or running on the corridors is not allowed.
- ❖ Doors are opened gently in consideration for others.
- ❖ All doors should be closed. Partially open doors are dangerous.

## **Punctuality**

Punctuality is expected at all times.

## **Registration**

- ❖ Registers are marked after assembly and returned to the Office by 9.15am.  
Registers are marked in the afternoon and returned by 1.30pm.

- ❖ If a pupil arrives late, they must report to their Form Teacher who may alter the register accordingly.
- ❖ Advance notice of hospital appointments, holidays etc., must be given in writing if a pupil is absent, parents are asked to 'phone the school immediately and write in when the pupil returns to school. Absences must be authorised by school. Each LEA requires details of authorised and unauthorised absences.

## Relationships

- ❖ Older pupils are expected to care for younger ones and all are encouraged to be aware of the needs of others.
- ❖ Appropriateness is expected at all times
- ❖ Consideration for others is paramount
- ❖ Dignity and respect for each other pervades the ethos of the school

## Equipment

- ❖ Great efforts are made to keep the school in good order, as much of the equipment is very expensive, therefore, everyone is expected to take good care of the equipment, furniture and fittings in the school environment
- ❖ Damage should be reported immediately to an appropriate member of staff so that it can be repaired before becoming a hazard.
- ❖ Chairs should be pushed under the desk as the pupils leave a room and, as far as possible, the top of the desk should be cleared.
- ❖ Electrical Equipment must be switched off and unplugged after use.
- ❖ No equipment may be borrowed without permission and it must always be returned in good order.
- ❖ Desks and their contents are private and nothing should be examined or borrowed without permission.
- ❖ School equipment that is lost or damaged should be paid for by the pupils or their parents/guardians.

## Standard of Dress

- ❖ The uniform is kept as simple as possible so as to avoid unnecessary expense.
- ❖ Pupils are expected to be neat and tidy at all times. A clothing list is sent to all parents of new pupils.
- ❖ Pupils should wear low-heeled shoes or sandals.
- ❖ Trainers are not allowed.
- ❖ Coats must be left in the cloakrooms.
- ❖ All clothing should be clearly labelled with the pupils name.
- ❖ Jewellery should not be worn in school.
- ❖ If ears are pierced, plain studs may be worn. Other piercing is not allowed.
- ❖ Tattoos (permanent or temporary), make-up or nail varnish are not allowed.

## Personal Possessions

- ❖ All personal equipment should be marked.
- ❖ Each residential pupil is provided with a locker and key. Money or valuables should always be locked away safely or kept on their person. The school cannot accept responsibility for property left lying around.
- ❖ During PE or Swimming sessions money should be handed to a member of Staff.
- ❖ School is not responsible for the loss of personal possessions. Expensive equipment should not be brought into school premises.
- ❖ Mobile phones are not allowed between 8.50am and 3.40pm

## Rewards and Sanctions

Our community life is based on mutual respect within a Christian and World Faith context. The school rewards academic and social independence achievements by virtue of our Merit Awards Scheme, which enables, pupils to celebrate achievements across the whole school curriculum. Positive behaviour is also encouraged through this system, which is reported weekly to the whole school community. Each pupil is allocated a house group and points are totalled for each house group across the school year. Achievements are formally announced weekly and termly with the cumulative total being

announced at the end of the school year. An accessible and VI friendly display of merits earned can be found in the dining room. (*A staff/pupil working group is currently reviewing the merit system.*)

As a school we encourage all of our pupils to achieve their maximum potential as such, we expect standards of behaviour which are exemplary at all times. Any measures taken to respond to unacceptable behaviour will be appropriate to the age, understanding and individual needs of the child. Staff will take into account that unacceptable or challenging behaviour may be the result of illness, bullying, certain disabilities such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder, or Communication Difficulties. Subsequently, measures of control or positive handling are selected, avoided or adapted, as necessary, to take the child's needs, characteristics and any disability into account.

### **Dealing with Unacceptable Behaviour**

As noted above, measures taken to respond to unacceptable behaviour must be appropriate to the age, understanding and individual needs of the child. To this end specific individual behaviour plans of agreed strategies may be employed to reflect the individual pupil's understanding of their behaviour.

Described below are a number of incremental stages that may be progressed through as we manage unacceptable behaviour, which may be accelerated through, depending upon the seriousness of the incident.

### **First Stage**

When unacceptable behaviour occurs, staff should firstly identify and discuss with the pupil the behaviour that concerns them before considering one or more of the following sanctions:

- ❖ a verbal reprimand
- ❖ change of seating or leisure grouping arrangements.
- ❖ loss of privileges, including morning and mid-day break times, a demerit.

- ❖ a punishment to fit the misdemeanour i.e. cleaning up the mess made, picking up litter, completing homework.
- ❖ redoing an unacceptable piece of work.
- ❖ sending to bed earlier than pupils of the same age (residential pupils).
- ❖ mention in a daily journal.
- ❖ working away from other children within the classroom/residential unit in a designated area, under supervision.
- ❖ For serious or persistent disruptive behaviour in a lesson or activity, a pupil may be instructed to leave the activity, but this should be:
  - Under supervision of the most appropriate adult
  - For a designated period of time, with a clear explanation of what the pupil must do in order to return to the activity.
- ❖ For persistent or serious inappropriate behaviour a referral will be made to the designated Line Manager

## Second Stage

If the inappropriate behaviour continues and the Line Manager has received three significant referrals for unacceptable behaviour, the pupil will be placed on Behaviour Contract and the parents advised. The contract will take the form of identified stratagems to secure appropriate positive behaviour with a clear description of what this behaviour is and how it can be achieved. The consequences both positive and negative of achieving/not achieving identified targets will be made clear to the pupil.

## Third Stage

If there is no significant improvement in behaviour in the time of the contract, the matter will be then be passed on to the Principal/Deputy Principal who may:

- ❖ Call a meeting with parents,
- ❖ Convene a meeting of the appropriate governing body sub committee
- ❖ Call a meeting with appropriate local authority representatives

Subsequent to which a specific contract of continuing placement will be determined.

At all stages pupils will be appropriately involved and have a right to appeal against a sanction either in writing or through a chosen person - (See Complaints Procedure).

#### **Fourth Stage**

If there is still no significant improvement in behaviour the Principal may then consider either a Fixed Term or Permanent Exclusion from the School. (See Exclusion Policy).

*\*Please note all stages must be recorded in the sanctions book in the main school office\**

#### **Prohibited Sanctions**

1. Any form of corporal punishment, including slapping, punching, rough handling, hitting with thrown objects etc.
2. Any deprivation of food or drink. Pupils missing meals for whatever reason must be offered a reasonable alternative.
3. Enforced eating or drinking.
4. Any restriction of visits or delay in communication by telephone or post with parents, relatives or friends, statutory visitors, social workers, guardians *ad item*, solicitors or independent listener or helpline.
5. Any requirement to wear distinctive, inappropriate clothing or night clothes by day.
6. Any use or withholding of medical or dental treatment.
7. Any intentional deprivation of sleep. On occasions, it is appropriate to wake a pupil e.g. when s/he uses the excuse of sleeping late to avoid school attendance.
8. The pupil should not be asked to repay an excessive rate of reparation other than by way of a reasonable contribution with respect to a fine.
9. Any intimate physical examination. However, a pupil may be searched by staff in order to recover items presenting immediate physical danger to the pupil or

others. Intimate physical examination, should be carried out only by a medical practitioner.

10. Any restriction of a pupil's normal liberty to leave the establishment or a room within it.

11. Social isolation or "sending to Coventry".

12. Any public humiliation of an individual pupil.

13. Withholding of any aids or equipment needed by a disabled child.

14. Idiosyncratic punishments are not used..

15. Punishment of groups of children is not used for the offences of an individual child or as a means of applying group pressure against the child.

16. Children are not given the authority to use sanctions against other children.

17. Restraint is not used as a sanction.