

Behaviour Policy

Our school adopted the Government guidance (The Department for Education, Ensuring Good Behaviour in Schools, January 2016): **See Appendix 1**

AIMS

- To create an environment which encourages and reinforces good behaviour.
- To define acceptable standards of behaviour.
- To encourage consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour.
- To promote self-esteem, self-discipline and positive relationships.
- To ensure that the school's expectations and strategies are widely known and understood.
- To encourage the involvement of both home and school in the implementation of this policy.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

At school we work towards standards of behaviour based on the basic principles of honesty, respect, consideration and responsibility. It follows that acceptable standards of behaviour are those which reflect these principles.

All pupils play an active role in our **Good to be Green** reward system. The purpose behind this is 3-fold:

1. It enables parents and school to track any trends in behaviour, rewarding improvement and acting upon a downward turn quickly and efficiently.
2. It enables the SMT and Governors to collect evidence about general behaviour in school.
3. It gives the opportunity to reward children whose behaviour is always good.

School Ethos

All adults encountered by the children at school have an important responsibility to model high standards of behaviour, both in their dealings with the children and with each other, as their example has an important influence on the children.

As adults we should aim to:

- create a positive climate with realistic expectations;
- emphasise the importance of being valued as an individual within the group;
- promote, through example, honesty and courtesy;
- provide a caring and effective learning environment;
- encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and understanding of the needs of others;
- ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability and disability;
- show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all.

The Curriculum and Learning

The school has implemented the Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL) curriculum across the school in order to provide the children with the skills that they need to become independent when managing their behaviour and learning.

Classroom Management

Classrooms are organised to develop independence and personal initiative. Furniture is arranged to provide an environment conducive to on-task behaviour. Materials and resources are arranged to aid accessibility and reduce uncertainty and disruption. Displays help develop self-esteem through demonstrating the value of every individual's contribution, and overall the classroom provides a welcoming environment.

Teaching methods encourage enthusiasm and active participation for all. Lessons aim to develop
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the skills, knowledge and understanding which will enable the children to work and play in co-operation with others. Praise is used to encourage good behaviour as well as good work. Criticism is a private matter between teacher and child to avoid resentment.

Rewards

Our emphasis is on rewards to reinforce good behaviour, rather than on failures. Rewards have a motivational role, helping children to see that good behaviour is valued. The commonest reward is praise, informal and formal, public and private, to individuals and groups. It is earned by the maintenance of good standards as well as by particularly noteworthy achievements. This is as true for adults as for children.

Recognition of the following rewards are presented publicly during assembly:-

- Primary Stars, house points, stickers and certificates in EYFS, KS1 and KS2

Sanctions

Although rewards are central to the encouragement of good behaviour, realistically there is a need for sanctions to register the disapproval of unacceptable behaviour and to protect the security and stability of the school community.

In an environment where respect is central, loss of respect, or disapproval, is a powerful sanction:

The use of sanction is characterised by certain features:-

- it must be clear why the sanction is being applied.
- it must be made clear that changes in behaviour are required to avoid future sanction.
- group sanctions will not be used as they breed resentment.
- there will be a clear distinction between minor and major offences.
- it will be the behaviour rather than the person that is punished.

Sanctions range from expressions of disapproval, through withdrawal from privileges, referral to the headteacher, letters to parents, exclusion at lunchtimes and ultimately and in the last resort, full exclusion (following Children's Services Guidelines).

Where anti-social behaviour, disruptive behaviour or aggressive behaviour is frequent, sanctions alone are ineffective. In such cases careful evaluation of the curriculum on offer, classroom organisation and management, and whole school procedures take place to eliminate these as contributory factors. Additional specialist help and advice from the Educational Psychologist may be necessary. This possibility will be discussed with the Headteacher.

Where anti-social behaviour, disruptive behaviour or aggressive behaviour is frequent and sanctions do not correct this behaviour and the safety of any person is put at risk, the pupil will be excluded. (See exclusion policy)

See appendix 2 for behaviour flow chart.

Communication and parental partnership

The school communicates policy and expectations to parents. Where behaviour is causing concern, parents will be informed at an early stage, and given an opportunity to discuss the situation. Parental support will be sought in devising a plan of action within this policy, and further disciplinary action will be discussed with the parents.

APPENDIX 1:

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON ENSURING GOOD BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL

Our school HAS adopted the following Government guidance (The Department for Education, Ensuring Good Behaviour in Schools, January 2016):

Discipline in schools – teachers’ powers

Key Points

- Teachers have statutory authority to discipline pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable, who break the school rules or who fail to follow a reasonable instruction (Section 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006).
- The power also applies to all paid staff (unless the headteacher says otherwise) with responsibility for pupils, such as teaching assistants.
- Teachers can discipline pupils at any time the pupil is in school or elsewhere under the charge of a teacher, including on school visits.
- Teachers can also discipline pupils in certain circumstances when a pupil’s misbehaviour occurs outside of school.
- Teachers have a power to impose detention outside school hours.
- Teachers can confiscate pupils’ property.

Punishing poor behaviour

What the law allows:

13. Teachers can discipline pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could reasonably be expected of them. This means that if a pupil misbehaves, breaks a school rule or fails to follow a reasonable instruction the teacher can impose a sanction on that pupil.

14. To be lawful, the sanction (including detentions) must satisfy the following three conditions:
- 1) The decision to punish 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 punish 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; and
 - 3) It must not breach any other legislation (for example in respect of disability, special educational needs, race and other equalities and human rights) and it must be reasonable in all the circumstances.

15. A sanction must be proportionate. In determining whether a sanction is reasonable, section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 says the penalty must be reasonable in all the circumstances and that account must be taken of the pupil’s age, any special educational needs or disability they may have, and any religious requirements affecting them.

16. The headteacher may limit the power 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.

17. Corporal sanction is illegal in all circumstances.

18. Schools should consider whether the behaviour under review gives cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, school staff should follow the schools’ safeguarding policy. They should also consider whether continuing

disruptive behaviour might be the result of unmet educational or other needs. At this point, the school should consider whether a multi-agency assessment is necessary.

Behaviour and sanctions

19. A clear school behaviour policy, consistently and fairly applied, underpins effective education. School staff, pupils and parents should all be clear of the high standards of behaviour expected of all pupils at all times. The behaviour policy should be supported and backed-up by senior staff and the head teacher.

20. Good schools encourage good behaviour through a mixture of high expectations, clear policy and an ethos which fosters discipline and mutual respect between pupils, and between staff and pupils.

21. Schools should have in place a range of options and rewards to reinforce and praise good behaviour, and clear sanctions for those who do not comply with the school's behaviour policy. These will be proportionate and fair responses that may vary according to the age of the pupils, and any other special circumstances that affect the pupil.

22. When poor behaviour is identified, sanctions should be implemented consistently and fairly in line with the behaviour policy. Good schools will have a range of disciplinary measures clearly communicated to school staff, pupils and parents. These can include:

- A verbal reprimand.
- Extra work or repeating unsatisfactory work until it meets the required standard.
- The setting of written tasks as sanctions, such as writing lines or an essay.
- Loss of privileges – for instance the loss of a prized responsibility or not being able to participate in a non-uniform day (sometimes referred to as 'mufti' days).
- Missing break time.
- Detention including during lunch-time, after school and at weekends.
- School based community service or imposition of a task – such as picking up litter or weeding school grounds; tidying a classroom; helping clear up the dining hall after meal times; or removing graffiti.
- Regular reporting including early morning reporting; scheduled uniform and other behaviour checks; or being placed "on report" for behaviour monitoring.
- In more extreme cases schools may use temporary or permanent exclusion.

Pupils' conduct outside the school gates – teachers' powers

What the law allows:

23. Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside of the school premises "to such an extent as is reasonable"⁷ – see paragraph 21.

24. Maintained schools and Academies' behaviour policies should set out what the school will do in response to non-criminal bad behaviour and bullying which occurs off the school premises and which is witnessed by a staff member or reported to the school, including the sanctions that will be imposed on pupils.

25. Subject to the behaviour policy, teachers may discipline pupils for:

- misbehaviour 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 other way identifiable as a pupil at the school.
- or misbehaviour at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, that:
 - could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or

- poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

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

Detention

What the law allows:

27. Teachers have a power to issue detention to pupils (aged under 18).

28. Schools must make clear to pupils and parents that they use detention (including detention outside of school hours) as a sanction.

29. The times outside normal school hours when detention can be given (the 'permitted day of detention') include:

- a) any school day where the pupil does not have permission to be absent;
- b) weekends - except the weekend preceding or following the half term break; and
- c) non-teaching days – usually referred to as 'training days', 'INSET days' or 'non-contact days'.

30. The headteacher can decide which members of staff can put pupils in detention. For example, they can limit the power to heads of year or heads of department only or they can decide that all members of staff, including support staff, can impose detentions.

Matters schools should consider when imposing detentions

31. Parental consent is not required for detentions.

32. As with any disciplinary penalty a member of staff must act reasonably given all the circumstances, as described in paragraph 15 above, when imposing a detention.

33. With lunchtime detentions, staff should allow reasonable time for the pupil to eat, drink and use the toilet.

Detentions outside school hours

34. School staff should not issue a detention where they know that doing so would compromise a child's safety. When ensuring that a detention outside school hours is reasonable, staff issuing the detention should consider the following points:

- Whether the detention is likely to put the pupil at risk.
- Whether the pupil has known caring responsibilities which mean that the detention is unreasonable.
- Whether the parents ought to be informed of the detention. In many cases it will be necessary to do so, but this will depend on the circumstances. For instance, notice may not be necessary for a short after school detention where the pupil can get home safely; and
- Whether suitable travel arrangements can be made by the parent for the pupil. It does not matter if making these arrangements is inconvenient for the parent.

Confiscation of inappropriate items

What the law allows:

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

- 1) The **general power to discipline** (as described in the bullets under the heading "Discipline in Schools – Teachers' Powers" on pages 3 and 4) enables a member of staff

to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a sanction, so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. The law protects them from liability for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items provided they have acted lawfully⁸. The legislation does not describe what must be done with the confiscated item and the school behaviour policy may set this out; and

2) **Power 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; and
- any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

The legislation sets out what must be done with prohibited items found as a result of a search.

36. Weapons and knives and extreme or child pornography must always be handed over to the police, otherwise it is for the teacher to decide if and when to return a confiscated item.

37. More detailed advice on confiscation and what must be done with prohibited items found as a result of a search is provided in 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation – advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies'. See Associated Resources section below for a link to this document.

Power to use reasonable force

38. Members of staff have the power 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.

39. Head teachers 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 or cause harm.

40. Schools can also identify additional items in their school rules which may be searched for without consent. Force **cannot** be used to search for these items.

41. Separate advice is available in 'Use of Reasonable Force – advice for school leaders, staff and governing bodies'. See Associated Resources section below for a link to this document.

Seclusion / isolation rooms

42. Schools can adopt a policy which allows disruptive pupils to be placed in an area away from other pupils for a limited period, in what are often referred to as seclusion or isolation rooms. If a school uses seclusion or isolation rooms as a disciplinary penalty this should be made clear in their behaviour policy. As with all other disciplinary penalties, schools must act reasonably in all the circumstances when using such rooms (see paragraphs 14 and 15). Any use of isolation that prevents a child from leaving a room of their own free will should only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The school must also ensure the health and safety of pupils and any requirements in relation to safeguarding and pupil welfare.

43. It is for individual schools to decide how long a pupil should be kept in seclusion or isolation, and for the staff member in charge to determine what pupils may and may not do during the time they are there. Schools should ensure that pupils are kept in seclusion or isolation no longer than is necessary and that their time spent there is used as constructively as possible. Schools should also allow pupils time to eat or use the toilet.

Associated resources

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
6. The Government's former expert adviser on behaviour, Charlie Taylor, has produced a checklist on the basics of classroom management. Teachers can use it to develop between five and ten essential actions to encourage good behaviour in pupils.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/good-behaviour-in-schools-checklist-for-teachers>

1 What is reasonable force?

- 1) The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- 2) Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 3) 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- 4) As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
- 5) Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- 6) School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

2 Who can use reasonable force?

- 1) All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force².
- 2) This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the head teacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

3 When can reasonable force be used?

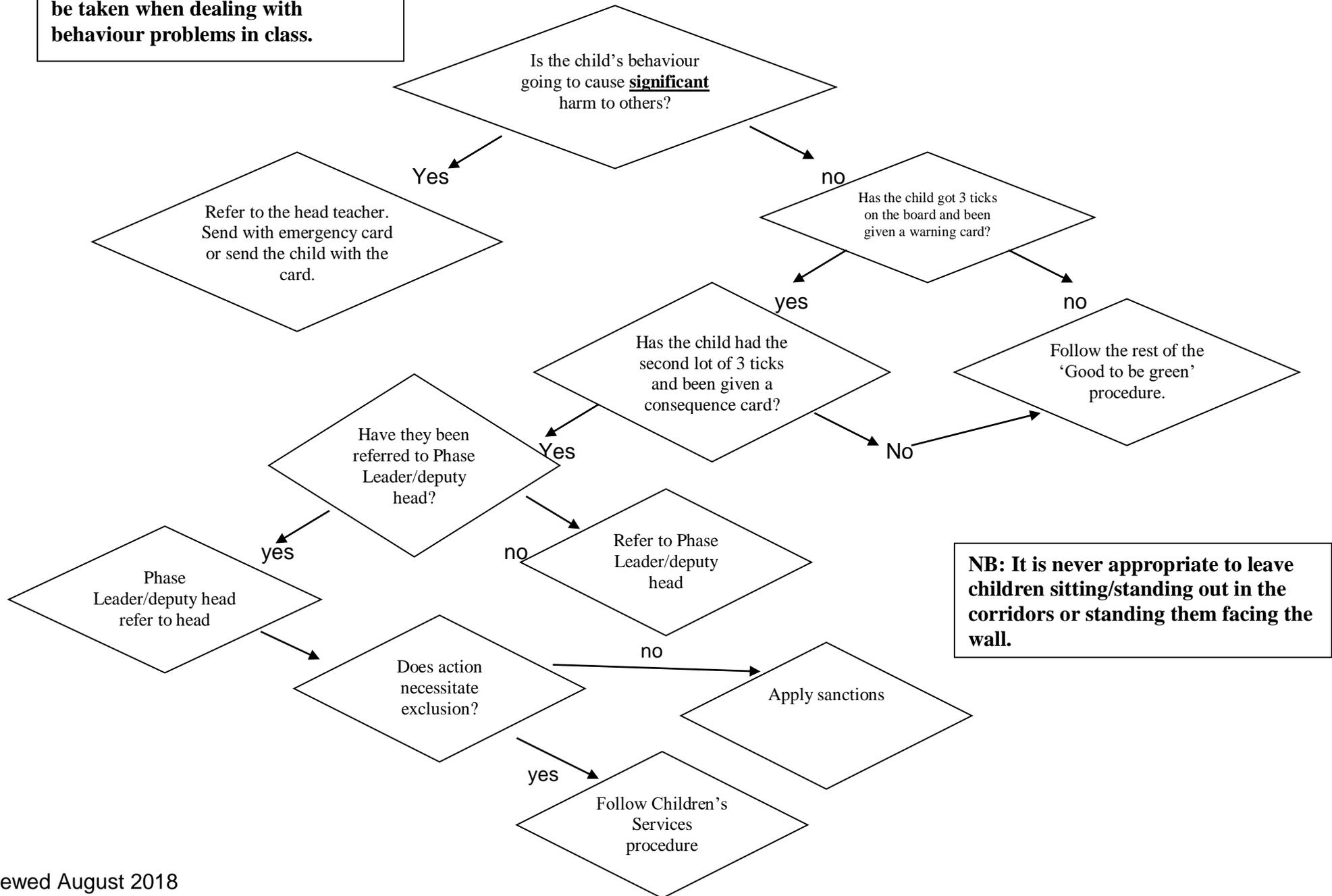
- 1) Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- 2) In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.
- 3) The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.
- 4) The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

This flow chart shows the actions to be taken when dealing with behaviour problems in class.

Appendix 2- Behaviour Flow Chart



NB: It is never appropriate to leave children sitting/standing out in the corridors or standing them facing the wall.