



Exeter Cathedral School Policy



SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND PUPIL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

This policy applies to all children at ECS, including boarders and children in the EYFS. The named practitioner responsible for behavior management in the EYFS is Katie Fisher.

While the majority of pupils behave well, the Governors recognize that there are occasions when teachers and other school staff have to deal with poor and disruptive behaviour.

The Power to Discipline

At ECS, all teachers and other staff in charge of pupils have the power to discipline. The Headmaster may limit the power to apply particular sanctions to certain staff and/or extend the power to discipline to adult volunteers.

Discipline and behaviour

The school is committed to promoting values such as respect, fairness and social inclusion and the schools ethos reflects the commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils and eliminating all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying, as well as promoting equality of opportunity, the welfare of pupils and good relations across the whole school community.

Communication

The Headmaster will publicise the behaviour policy and will take steps, at least once a year to bring the policy to the attention of all pupils, parents and school staff. This has the overall effect of helping to secure understanding and insofar as possible assent to the policy throughout the school community.

Punishing poor behaviour: use of disciplinary sanctions

Sanctions must be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances of the case. These sanctions have three main purposes:

- Impress on the perpetrator that what he or she has done is unacceptable
- Deter the pupil from repeating that behaviour
- Signal to other pupils that the behaviour is unacceptable and deter them from doing it

Effective approaches to discipline are characterised by a healthy balance between the rights and responsibilities of staff and pupils, based on mutual respect.

Power to Search

Whilst, the school is aware of the right of children to privacy, the school has the 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
- any other banned item

See also the School’s policy P22 arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions.

Use of Reasonable Force to Control or Restrain a Pupil

There are a wide variety of situations in which reasonable force might be appropriate, or necessary, to control or restrain a pupil. They will fall into three broad categories:

- Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
- Where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property.
- Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.

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. **See the School’s policy P22 ‘arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions.**

The use of reasonable force applies when a teacher, or other authorised person working for Exeter Cathedral School, is on the school premises, and when he or she has lawful control or charge of the pupil concerned elsewhere e.g. on a field trip, or other authorised out of school activity.

There is no legal definition of ‘reasonable force’, so it is not possible to set out comprehensively when it is reasonable to use force, or the degree of force that may reasonably be used. It will always depend on all the circumstances of the case, as well as the age, size, understanding and sex of the pupil.

There are two relevant considerations:

- The use of any degree of force is unlawful if the particular circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force. Therefore physical force could not be justified to prevent a pupil from committing a trivial misdemeanour, or in a situation that clearly could be resolved without force.
- the degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

If a member of staff has to use any restraint/physical intervention they should make an immediate referral to the Head or Deputy Head (and the Boarding Houseparent in the case of boarders), and submit a written record. Additionally, and particularly in the case of EYFS pupils, parents should be informed on the same day or as soon as is reasonably practical.

The following policies should be read when considering the school discipline and pupil behaviour policy

- ORO4 Exclusion Policy
- PO4 Code of Conduct for Pupils
- P08 Recording Welfare and Conduct Incidences
- P13 Countering Bullying Policy and Procedures
- P15 Pupil Rewards and Sanctions Policy
- P22 Arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions
- HRO3 Delegation of responsibilities to Gap Tutors
- HRO8 Induction of new staff

Updated June 16