

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Initially all behaviours are dealt with according to our Behaviour policy.

Deliberate physical violence in anger to another child was deemed by the School Council to be a behaviour which warranted an immediate red card. Incidences which are not witnessed by an adult are to be discussed with all the children involved and with direct witnesses to the incident. All the children should give an account of the incident and the member of staff who is investigating should then make a judgement based on the evidence presented, or refer the matter to the Deputy Head or Head Teacher. We are required by law to have an equal duty of care to all children and therefore have to be impartial and view each incident on the evidence available to us at the time. Any consequence from an incident should not be publically announced to the class.

Any red card offence involves a discussion with the Head Teacher; so the children are aware of the seriousness of the situation, and a discussion is held with the child concerned to outline ways in which they could improve the choices they make. Each incident must be viewed independently and without prejudice. Severe incidents may result in immediate time off the playground to allow those involved to think carefully about the impact of their actions.

Repeated involvement in incidents results in a stepped approach of severity of consequence. The child involved would be closely monitored and have considerable input and support in their behaviour management – initially by school staff, then also possibly with outside agency support and advice.

Initially the child would have time off the playground, beginning with part of a day, then increasing to a whole day, three days and then five days. Should inappropriate behaviour continue the child may require internal exclusion which again is a stepped approach of one day, three days and then five days. Should the behaviour still be an issue then external exclusion would be implemented, which follows the same stepped pattern. The ultimate outcome could be a permanent exclusion from the school. Progression through the stepped exclusions should be considered carefully by the Head Teacher, with due consideration to the time frames of the causal incidents. It may be appropriate to repeat previous steps. Decisions should be based on evidence of overall improvement in behaviour.

There may be a case for these steps to be over-ruled should a behaviour be particularly severe, in which case advice and implementation would be sought from County.

The use of inappropriate language on the playground is dealt with within the normal behaviour consequence system in school, where the child would move to the next consequence in the system. It is often very difficult to prove whether what was heard was actually what was said, and considerable reliance has to be given to the witness statements of other children unless the language was overheard by an adult. The children should all be reminded regularly of the importance of reporting to an adult any behaviours by other children which make them feel uncomfortable.