

## **Promoting positive behaviour**

### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Managing behaviour**

Providers are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way.

## 7.1 Promoting positive behaviour

### Policy statement

GSC believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are understood, supported and met and where there are clear, fair and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

As children develop, they learn about boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and to consider the views and feelings, and needs and rights, of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. The development of these skills requires adult guidance to help encourage and model appropriate behaviours and to offer intervention and support when children struggle with conflict and emotional situations. In these types of situations key staff can help identify and address triggers for the behaviour and help children reflect, regulate and manage their actions.

Our behaviour coordinator who will oversee and advise on the team's responses to challenging behaviour is  
Nicky Pohl

### Procedures

In order to manage children's behaviour in an appropriate way we will:

- attend relevant training to help understand and guide appropriate models of behaviour.
- implement the setting's behaviour procedures including the stepped approach.
- have the necessary skills to support other staff with behaviour issues and to access expert advice, if necessary
- Some GSC Staff have Team Teach Training

(Team Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to the pupil, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, these are not seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect to attempt to keep people safe during a critical incident)

## *Stepped approach*

### **Step 1**

- GSC will ensure that EYFS guidance relating to 'behaviour management' is incorporated into relevant policy and procedures.
- GSC will be knowledgeable with, and apply the setting's procedures on Promoting Positive Behaviour.
- GSC will undertake an annual audit to ensure the environment and practices support healthy social and emotional development. Findings from the audit are considered by the management and relevant adjustments applied.
  
- ensure that all staff are supported to address issues relating to behaviour including applying initial and focused intervention approaches (see below).
  
- GSC ensure environment and practices support healthy social and emotional development.
  - Respect between individuals
  - Understanding of individual differences
  - Awareness and empathy for feelings of others
  - Negotiation skills to resolve disputes
  - Praise and raising self-esteem.

### **Step 2**

- Staff address unwanted behaviours using the agreed and consistently applied initial intervention approach. Staff will inform parents /carers of any challenging behaviour. If the unwanted behaviour does not reoccur or cause concern, then normal monitoring will resume.
- Long term behaviours that result in concern for the child and/or others will be discussed between the keyperson; (preschool) the behaviour and SEND coordinator and /or manager. During the meeting the keyperson (if child a pre-schooler) or staff member will use their knowledge and assessments of the child to share any know influencing factors (new baby: additional needs: illness etc) in order to place the unwanted behaviour into context. Appropriate adjustments to practice will be agreed and if successful normal monitoring will be resumed.
- If the behaviour continues to reoccur and remains a concern, then the key person (if pre-schooler) and SENCO should liaise with parents to discuss possible reasons for the behaviour and to agree next steps. If relevant and appropriate, the views of the child relating to their behaviour should be sought and considered to help identify a cause. If a cause for the behaviour is not known or only occurs whilst in the setting, then the behaviour coordinator will suggest using a focused intervention approach to identify a trigger for the behaviour.
- If a trigger is identified, then the SENCO and key person (if pre-schooler) will meet with the parents to plan support for the child through developing an action plan. If relevant, recommended actions for dealing with the behaviour at home should be agreed with the parent/s and incorporated into the plan. Other members of the staff team should be informed of the agreed actions in the action plan and help implement the actions. The plan should be monitored and reviewed regularly until improvement is noticed.

All incidents and intervention relating to unwanted and challenging behaviour by children should be clearly and appropriately logged - this will include what may have provoked the behaviour.

### **Step 3**

- If, despite applying the initial intervention and focused intervention approaches, the behaviour continues to occur and/or is of significant concern, the manager and SENCO will invite the parents to a meeting to discuss external referral and/or next steps for supporting the child in the setting.
- For persistent circumstances for example regular violent outburst- where others (peers / adults) or property is put at risk in any way, and all reasonable opportunities have been exhausted, parents will be contacted to collect their child as a temporary fixed term exclusion.
  - First instance - three days exclusion will be enforced.
  - Second instance - Five days exclusion will be enforced
  - Any further repeated incidents may lead to suspension.
- It may be agreed that the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Early Help process should begin, and that specialist help be sought for the child – this support may address either developmental or welfare needs. If the child's behaviour is part of a range of welfare concerns that also include a concern that the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, follow the Safeguarding and Children and Child Protection Policy (1.2). It may also be agreed that the child should be referred for an Education, Health and Care assessment. (See Supporting Children with SEN policy 9.2).
- Advice provided by external agencies should be incorporated into the child's action plan and regular multi-disciplinary meetings held to review the child's progress.

#### *Initial intervention approach*

- We use an initial problem-solving intervention for all situations in which a child or children are distressed or in conflict. All staff use this intervention consistently.
- This type of approach involves an adult approaching the situation calmly, stopping any hurtful actions, acknowledging the feelings of those involved, gathering information, restating the issue to help children reflect, regain control of the situation and resolve the situation themselves.
- Periodically the effectiveness of the approach will be monitored.

#### *Focused intervention approach*

- The reasons for some types of behaviour are not always apparent, despite the knowledge and input from key staff and parents.
- Where we have considered all possible reasons, then a focused intervention approach should then be applied.
- This approach allows observation, reflection and identification of causes and functions of unwanted behaviour in the wider context of other known influences on the child.
- Staff follow the ABC method which uses key observations to identify a) an event or activity (antecedent) that occurred immediately before a particular behaviour, b) what behaviour was observed and recorded at the time of the incident, and c) what the consequences were following the behaviour. Once analysed, the

focused intervention should help determine the cause (e.g. ownership of a toy or fear of a situation) and function of the behaviour (to obtain the toy or avoid a situation) and suitable support will be applied.

#### *Use of rewards and sanctions*

- All children need consistent messages, clear boundaries and guidance to intrinsically manage their behaviour through self-reflection and control.
- Rewards such as excessive praise and stickers may provide an immediate change in the behaviour but will not teach children how to act when a 'prize' is not being given or provide the child with the skills to manage situations and their emotions. Instead, a child is taught how to be 'compliant' and respond to meet adult's own expectations in order to obtain a reward (or for fear of a sanction). If used, then the type of rewards and their functions must be carefully considered before applying.
- Children should never be labelled, criticised, humiliated, punished, shouted at or isolated by removing them from the group and left alone in 'time out' or on a 'naughty chair'. However, if necessary, children can be accompanied and removed from the group in order to calm down and if appropriate helped to reflect on what has happened.

#### *Use of physical intervention*

- The term physical intervention is used to describe any forceful physical contact by an adult to a child such as grabbing, pulling, dragging, or any form of restraint of a child such as holding down. Where a child is upset or angry, staff will speak to them calmly, encouraging them to vent their frustration in other ways by diverting the child's attention.
- Staff should not use physical intervention – or the threat of physical intervention, to manage a child's behaviour unless it is necessary to use 'reasonable force in order to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damage property '(EYFS).'
- If 'reasonable force' has been used for any of the reasons shown above, parents are to be informed on the same day that it occurs. The intervention will be recorded as soon as possible within the child's file, which states clearly when and how parents were informed.
- Corporal (physical) punishment of any kind should never be used or threatened.

#### *Challenging Behaviour/Aggression/ Harassment by children towards other children-peer on peer abuse/ adults*

- Any aggressive behaviour by children towards other children will result in a staff member intervening immediately to challenge and prevent escalation. This behaviour may ultimately lead to fixed term exclusion. (please see Step 3) This includes physical abuse-sexual violence and harassment- sexting-bullying (including cyber bullying) gender recognition: and any forms of initiation rituals. Furthermore, GSC states that these abuses must not be tolerated as 'banter'
- If the behaviour has been significant or may potentially have a detrimental effect on the child, the parents of the child who has been the victim of behaviour and the parents of the child who has been the perpetrator will be informed.

- The designated person will contact children's social services if appropriate and will consider whether notifying the police if appropriate. E.g. if a child has been seriously injured, or if there is reason to believe that a child's challenging behaviour is an indication that they themselves are being abused.
- The designated person will make a written record of the incident, which is kept in the child's file, in line with the *Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults* policy.
- The designated person should complete a risk assessment related to the child's challenging behaviour to avoid any further instances.
- The designated person should meet with the parents of the child who has been affected by the behaviour to advise them of the incident and the setting's response to the incident.
- Ofsted should be notified if appropriate, e.g. if a child has been seriously injured.
- Relevant health and safety procedures and procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints should be followed.
- Parents should also be asked to sign risk assessments where the risk assessment relates to managing the behaviour of a specific child.

For minimising the risk of above staff will follow GSC online safety policy 1:6 and Behavioural Procedures (The stepped approach: interventions and rewards and sanctions)

Bullying is a behaviour that is a worry to both parents and practitioners. Bullying is a deliberate, aggressive, and repeated action, which is carried out with the intent to cause harm or distress to others. It requires the child to have 'theory of mind' and a higher level of reasoning and thinking, all of which most preschoolers have not yet developed. Therefore, at this age an outburst is more likely to reflect the child's emotional well-being, their stage of development or a behaviour they have copied from someone else.

Young children are keen observers and more likely to copy behaviours, especially the actions of people they have established a relationship with. These are learnt behaviours rather than premeditated behaviours because children this young do not have sufficiently sophisticated cognition to carry out the type of bullying an older child can do. Unless addressed early, this type of pre-bullying behaviour can lead on to bullying behaviour later in childhood. The fear is that by labelling a child as a bully so early in life we risk influencing negative perceptions and expectations of the child which will impact on their self-image, self-esteem and may adversely affect their long term behaviour. This label can stick with a child for the rest of their life.

#### *Challenging unwanted behaviour from adults in the setting*

- Settings will not tolerate behaviour from an adult which demonstrates a dislike, prejudice and/or discriminatory attitude or action towards any individual or group. This includes negativity towards groups and individuals living outside the UK (xenophobia). This also applies to the same behaviour if directed towards specific groups of people and individuals who are British Citizens residing in the UK.
- Allegations of discriminatory remarks or behaviour including xenophobia made in the setting by any adult will be taken seriously. The perpetrator will be asked to stop the behaviour and failure to do so may result

in the adult being asked to leave the premises and in the case of a staff member, disciplinary measures being taken.

- Where a parent makes discriminatory or prejudiced remarks to staff at any time, or other people while on the premises, this is recorded on the child's file and is reported to the setting manager. The procedure is explained and the parent asked to comply while on the premises. An 'escalatory' approach will be taken with those who continue to exhibit this behaviour. The second stage comprises a letter to the parent requesting them to sign a written agreement not to make discriminatory remarks or behave in a discriminatory or prejudiced manner; the third stage may be considering withdrawing the child's place.

### Further guidance

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE 2014)

This policy was adopted by	GSC Ltd
On	May 2021
Date to be reviewed	May 2022
Signed on behalf of the provider	Gaddesby School Community
Name of signatory	Linda Dunmore
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Manager