



COOKSTOWN NURSERY SCHOOL

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

School Mission Statement

“Big oak trees from little acorns grow”

School Vision

“Our vision is to provide a safe, happy environment where children can develop to their full potential and where we will encourage them to have respect for themselves and others and to become independent learners and thinkers”

AIMS

In Cookstown Nursery School the staff aim to create a climate which will:

- Promote positive behaviour.
- Encourage self-discipline, consideration for others, our surroundings and our property, thereby creating a secure environment in which children can engage in effective and enjoyable learning.
- Enhance pupils’ self esteem and foster self-respect.
- Develop pupils’ independence by encouraging them to accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.
- Encourage children to cooperate with each other and their teachers to create a happy and caring atmosphere in the nursery.
- Encourage children to display good manners and a high standard of behaviour at all times.
- Work in partnership with parents and enjoy their endorsement and active support with regard to promoting the school’s Positive Behaviour Policy and rules within the nursery.

We recognise that the attitude of **all** staff is of great importance and therefore all nursery staff aim to model the type of behaviour that is expected from the children. Staff believe that consistent follow-through is required if children are to realise that they mean what they say and that promises will be kept. Therefore, staff will always strive to have a consistent and shared approach to implementing the school’s Positive Behaviour Policy.

Strategies for Promoting Positive Behaviour

We place great emphasis on the Personal Social and Emotional Development of our children and this helps them to understand the behaviour that is acceptable in school. Through the use of story and our Box Of Feelings we talk to the children about why they should not hit, kick, bite etc. and about how we should share, take turns, be friends and look after our school and the toys in it. We will talk about feeling happy, sad, cross and frightened.

We also cover a topic called Media Initiative or Respecting Difference and this helps our children to be more tolerant of children who are different and that bullying is not acceptable behaviour. Through Circle Time our children discuss different feelings and we talk about dealing with feelings especially anger and that anger can often be turned into a positive feeling.

NURSERY RULES

Children are encouraged to respect themselves, other people and property. Our five encompassing nursery rules are as follows:

- We use gentle hands with our friends and toys
- We use walking feet in the classroom.
- We use quiet voices in the classroom.
- We use listening ears.
- We use looking eyes.

Children are introduced to the following simple rules as situations arise:

WE MUST:

Take care of our friends and ourselves.

Share if there is enough for others, otherwise take turns.

Take care of our books and toys.

Pick up toys when we drop them.

Keep sand and water in their trays.

Walk in the classroom

Speak quietly to other children and teachers.

Listen to our friends and teachers when they are speaking to us.

IN THE BATHROOM WE MUST:

Flush the toilet after use.

Wash our hands after using the toilet.

Turn the taps off after use.

Put paper towels in bin after use.

Keep the bathroom floor dry.

OUTDOORS

WE MUST:

Ride our bikes on the cycle track.

Only use the slide if an adult is there.

Climb, jump and slide with care.

Only run on the grass.

Always look where we are going.

Tell our teacher if someone gets hurt.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

Cookstown Nursery School operates a system of rewards and incentives which is applied with consistency by all staff, thereby helping to establish and maintain a climate in which the children come to appreciate what constitutes acceptable behaviour. Positive behaviour and attitudes are regularly celebrated within the nursery and shared with parents.

REWARDS

Examples of non-verbal rewards include; smiling, nodding, thumbs up, winking, high five. Verbal rewards include praise and encouragement for good work, effort and consideration of others. Tangible rewards such as stickers, badges, stars are given on a consistent basis. Children may also be given responsibility tasks in recognition of good behaviour eg. helpers at dinner time. In our school we notice and celebrate the good behaviour as it is most important that children realise that good behaviour is recognised and rewarded.

SANCTIONS

A range of sanctions may be applied when children behave inappropriately.

How a particular type of behaviour is handled will depend on the child and the circumstances. However, the following strategies have been identified by staff as providing useful measures for dealing with unacceptable behaviour:

- Address the child by name to ensure you have his/her attention and give short simple instructions or a clear explanation of what you want the child to do or to explain what they have done wrong. Make sure you give the child time to respond. Repeat if necessary using the same wording and a calm clear voice.
- Staff may explain that all children have equal rights and that those rights will be protected. For example, if a child is playing with a toy and another child grabs it, an adult will help them preserve the right to finish using it. The other child will be assured that s/he will get a turn later.
- Children may be given explanations as to why certain behaviours are unacceptable and suggestions for alternative ways to behave.

- Pupils may be given time out on a chair until s/he has calmed down and had time to reflect on his/her behaviour.
- In the event of any altercation/incident which may involve one child having to be removed from the said situation this child will be given appropriate attention. The child responsible for the incident will be spoken to by a member of staff and reminded of Nursery rules.
- Pupils may be asked to explain their actions and to think about the consequences of their behaviour for themselves, others and the environment.
- Children may not be allowed to make their own choice of activities for a limited period of time.
- A child might be asked to see if the person whom they have upset is feeling better.
- A child might be asked to say sorry. (An immediate response of 'sorry' will not be accepted if it is clear that the child does not mean it, but is merely apologising so that s/he can continue playing.)
- A child may be asked to apologise meaningfully to the individual when they have hurt or upset.

Parents will be informed if their child is persistently unkind to others or if their child has been upset. In all cases inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with in school at the time. Parents may be asked to meet with staff to discuss their child's behaviour, so that if there are any difficulties staff and parents can work together to ensure consistency between home and school. The length of the child's day at nursery may be shortened at the discretion of the Principal.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH A CHILD WHO DISPLAYS CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

The following procedures are to be followed when dealing with a child who presents with challenging and or aggressive behaviour that poses a risk to themselves, other children or adults in school:

- Instruct other children to move away from the situation/area immediately.
- Remove equipment or resources that could potentially injure the child or which they could use to injure others.
- Attempt to resolve the situation in a calm manner and/or calm the child.
- While continuously observing the situation, give the child space to calm down.
- If the child continues to move around the classroom keep moving all children/equipment out of their way.
- If the situation remains unresolved call another member of staff to assist - if possible
- Once resolved, record the incident in the child's file
- Handling or physically restraining the child should only be used as a last resort
- Parents will be informed of the incident as soon as possible. The length of the child's nursery day may be shortened at the Principal's discretion to enable the child to cope better within the nursery environment

The above procedures are in place to protect the child, other children and staff members and to minimise any potential harm that may occur.

Staff recognise that there may be a very small number of pupils for whom none of the above interventions are effective. In such cases the child's difficulties will be addressed through the five stages of the SEN Code of Practice, just as for any other special educational need and help may be sought from the Behaviour Support Team.

SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Children whose behaviour seriously threatens the safety and well being of other children or staff in the nursery may be suspended or expelled. In such circumstances, the guidelines outlined in the booklet "Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour" issued by the Department of Education will be followed.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This policy has links with our Child Protection/Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, Intimate Care and Pastoral Care policies.