

Behaviour Policy and Statement of Behaviour Principles

Seven Springs Education



**Seven Springs
Education**

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide a consistent approach to behaviour management
- Define what we consider to be unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and discrimination
- Outline how students are expected to behave
- Summarise the roles and responsibilities of different people at Seven Springs Education with regards to behaviour management
- Outline our system of rewards and sanctions

Seven Springs Education is committed to facilitating an environment in which all our students may learn and work together. We recognise that the values we promote and the examples we set play an important part in the learning and development of our students.

Seven Springs Education takes a positive, rather than confrontational, approach to behaviour management and always considers the whole child and any relevant information.

The purpose of this policy is to set out clear expectations for our students which enables us to continue to grow our ethos of kindness and cooperation.

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- [Behaviour and discipline in schools](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)

It is also based on the [special educational needs and disability \(SEND\) code of practice](#).

3. Definitions

Misbehaviour is defined as:

- Disruption in lessons
- Non-completion of classwork or homework
- Poor attitude
- Inappropriate attire which may cause offence

Serious misbehaviour is defined as:

- Repeated breaches of Seven Springs Education's rules
- Any form of bullying
- Child-on-child abuse
- Sexual harassment, meaning unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Sexual comments
 - Sexual jokes or taunting

- Physical behaviour like interfering with clothes
- Online sexual harassment such as unwanted sexual comments and messages (including on social media), sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos, or sharing of unwanted explicit content

4. Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Racial ● Faith-based ● Gendered (sexist) ● Homophobic/biphobic ● Transphobic ● Disability-based 	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites

Seven Springs Education is fully committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all children, and taking all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and protect children from harm, abuse and neglect.

All staff are trained to prevent, recognise and handle all forms of bullying. In particular, the ways in which bullying can present in online learning settings. All students and parents can report incidents or concerns to the tutor or to the Senior Leadership Team.

Seven Springs Education investigates and records all allegations of bullying. Students and classes may be rearranged to ensure the safety and well-being of students in class.

Seven Springs Education recognises that bullying can be both a sign of mental health problems in the perpetrator and a risk factor that may lead to mental health problems in victims. All staff are also trained in identifying and responding to mental health conditions and concerns.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for reviewing and approving the written statement of behaviour principles (appendix 1) and this behaviour policy.

The Senior Leadership Team also reviews this behaviour policy in conjunction with tutors and monitors the policy's effectiveness, holding all staff to account for its implementation.

The Senior Leadership Team ensures that Seven Springs Education's learning environment encourages positive behaviour and that staff deal effectively with poor behaviour, and monitors how staff implement this policy to ensure rewards and sanctions are applied consistently.

5.2 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Modelling positive behaviour
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular students, which takes 'the whole child' into consideration
- Recording behaviour incidents (see appendix 3 for a behaviour log)

The Senior Leadership Team supports staff in responding to behaviour incidents.

5.3 The student's parents

The student's parents, are expected to:

- Support the student in adhering to the student code of conduct
- Inform Seven Springs Education of any changes in circumstances that may affect the student's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with Seven Springs Education

Schools may contact their School Liaison directly. Parents may contact the Senior Leadership Team via telephone (07392013379), or email slt@seven-springs.co.uk.

6. Student code of conduct

All students are expected to try to stick to our code of conduct and show positive examples of good behaviour in all their interactions at Seven Springs Education. In return, staff respect students' efforts and take a positive, rather than confrontational, approach to behaviour management.

Seven Springs Education students achieve success

in online lessons by...

- Behaving in an orderly and self-controlled way
- Showing respect and kindness to members of staff and to each other
- Making contributions to lessons and encouraging others to learn
- Completing homework when assigned
- Staying focused
- Being punctual and present online
- Turning and keeping cameras on with their face visible
- Wearing appropriate clothing at all times

in our community by...

- Accepting sanctions and second chances, when given
- Adhering to the Acceptable Use Agreement for Seven Springs Education's Teaching Platform(s) and Zoom classrooms
- Refraining from behaving in a way that brings Seven Springs Education into disrepute, including the time outside of classes

7. Rewards and sanctions

7.1 List of rewards and sanctions

Positive behaviour is rewarded with:

- Praise
- Online Stickers
- Positive online feedback
- Messages to parents
- Special responsibilities/privileges
- Positive term reports
- Other rewards and recognition, including special prizes

Seven Springs Education may use one or more of the following sanctions in response to unacceptable behaviour:

Sanctions permitted by tutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● An initial warning / opportunity to adjust behaviour (verbal or via Zoom chat function)● A verbal reprimand● Temporarily restricting Zoom features that contribute to disruptive behaviour, combined with an explanation (e.g. muting microphone, turning off video)● Removing the student from the online class● Expecting unfinished work to be completed outside of lesson time● Requesting the student remain in the online class to finish the work● Referring the student to a senior member of staff
Sanctions carried out by Senior Leadership Team only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Messages to school teachers and parents (where relevant)● Agreeing a behaviour contract● Putting a student 'on report'● Rearranging a student's class or tutor● Unenrollment*

*We may unenroll a student from a class in response to serious or persistent breaches of this policy. Students may be rearranged to another class if they are disruptive, and they are expected to adhere to our student code of conduct and exhibit positive behaviour in order to avoid subsequent sanctions.

In cases of misbehaviour, Seven Springs Education endeavours to provide students with the opportunity to adjust and amend their behaviour before progressing through sanctions. Where possible, staff avoid disciplining a student or giving sanctions in the presence of other students to avoid unnecessary embarrassment and enable them to return to the next lesson on a 'clean slate'.

7.2 Follow-up to sanctions

Following any sanction, Seven Springs Education values reengaging with students at the earliest opportunity to help them to understand what about their behaviour was unacceptable and how they can improve their behaviour and meet our expectations.

Seven Springs Education (Senior Leadership Team) may use one or more of the following methods after sanctions to promote positive future behaviour and understanding:

- A targeted discussion with the student, including explaining what they did wrong, the impact of their actions, how they can do better in the future and what will happen if their behaviour fails to improve. This may also include advising them to apologise to the relevant person, if appropriate.
- Communication with parents including inquiries into circumstances at school, or at home, conducted by the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.
- Considering whether any existing support for behaviour management being provided remains appropriate.

8. Specific behaviour topics

8.1 Zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse

Sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable and are not to be tolerated by Seven Springs Education. All incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence are met with a suitable response, and never ignored.

Seven Springs Education staff and students value respect. Staff are informed of the importance of challenging all inappropriate language and behaviour between students. This includes sexually abusive language or behaviour, sometimes dismissed as 'banter'. Staff demonstrate and model manners, courtesy and respectful interactions at all times to create a culture in which child-on-child abuse is not tolerated.

Students are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable, no matter how 'small' they feel it might be.

Seven Springs Education's response will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

Victims and those who report unacceptable behaviour are reassured that they will be supported, kept safe and are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. Seven Springs Education never gives victims the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting, minimises the problem, or makes them feel ashamed.

Sanctions for sexual harassment and/or violence may include:

- Permanent removal from the class
- Further sanctions incurred through the results of our Safeguarding reporting procedure

Seven Springs Education has procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a student's safety or wellbeing. These include clear processes for:

- Responding to a report

- Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:
 - Manage the incident internally in accordance with our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)
 - Refer to the parent/guardian and work with them to engage relevant assistance such as early help, children's social care and the police

Please refer to our [child protection and safeguarding policy](#) for more information.

8.2 Malicious allegations

Where a student makes an allegation against a member of staff and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, Seven Springs Education informs the parent/guardian.

Where a student makes an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment against another student and that allegation is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, Seven Springs Education informs the parent/guardian.

In all cases where an allegation is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, Seven Springs Education informs the parent/guardian (in collaboration with the local authority designated officer, where relevant), which considers whether the student who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help. If so, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

The organisation also considers the pastoral needs of staff and students accused of misconduct.

Please refer to our [child protection and safeguarding policy](#) for more information on responding to allegations of abuse against staff or other students.

8.3 Behaviour incidents online

As an online provider, Seven Springs Education is acutely aware of the ways in which students relate to one another online.

Many online behaviour incidents occur outside of Seven Springs Education's online lessons and platforms. Parents are responsible for this behaviour. However, these incidents can impact the culture of our learning community and behaviour in lessons. Seven Springs Education sanctions students when their behaviour online poses a threat or causes harm to another student and/or could have repercussions for the orderly running of online lessons and our organisation.

Online forms of misbehaviour and serious misbehaviour, including the use of inappropriate language, the soliciting and sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sexual harassment are treated with the same level of severity as offline behaviour. Students are reminded that even though lessons are conducted online, they are expected to adhere to the same standards of behaviour as offline. Everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity.

Any behaviour or incidents which raise a safeguarding concern are reported to the DSL (or deputy) in line with our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#). This policy includes guidance on incidents involving nude or semi-nude images and/or videos and is referred to along with principles set out in [Keeping children safe in education](#).

8.4 Mobile phones

Unless required for specific teaching and learning purposes, Seven Springs Education does not allow the use of mobile phones during online lessons. This excludes the use of mobile phones and personal electronic devices used to join online Zoom classrooms or access our platforms. This policy is in place to limit risks including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse during lessons.

Seven Springs Education's Acceptable Use Agreement for Seven Springs Education's Teaching Platform(s) and Zoom classrooms states clearly that students with access to a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device: 'will not use it during lessons, unless my tutor has given permission for teaching and learning purposes'.

Breaches of this policy and inappropriate use of mobile phones or personal devices is met with appropriate sanctions in line with the severity of each incident. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for ensuring this is consistently and fairly applied.

8.5 Suspected criminal behaviour

In cases where Seven Springs Education suspects criminal behaviour, an initial assessment is made in consultation with the DSL (or deputy) as to whether an incident should be reported to the police only by gathering enough information to establish the facts of the case. Seven Springs Education documents these initial investigations and makes every effort to preserve any relevant evidence.

Once a decision to report the incident to the police is made, Seven Springs Education ensures that any further action taken by our staff does not interfere with police action taken. In these instances, the DSL (or deputy) also considers making a report to local children's social care.

8.6 Banned items

Students are forbidden to bring any items to online lessons that are potentially harmful to themselves, or that may cause distress or offence to tutors or other students.

Items not allowed in online lessons

This is not an exhaustive list. Any items that are potentially harmful, may cause distress or offence must not be brought to online lessons. If there are any doubts about an item, students or parents can check with the Senior Leadership Team. Banned items include:

- chewing gum
- cigarettes, matches and lighters
- fireworks or "snaps" containing gunpowder
- e-cigarettes, shisha pens or liquids for these
- any items which are illegal to possess or carry, or that are inappropriate for the age of the child or lesson environment.

Breaches of this policy in which banned items are brought to online lessons are met with appropriate sanctions in line with the severity of each incident. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for ensuring this is consistently and fairly applied.

9. Behaviour management

9.1 Classroom management

Tutors are responsible for setting the tone and context for positive behaviour within the classroom.

They will:

- Create and maintain a stimulating environment that encourages students to be engaged
- Inform students of the student code of conduct or their own classroom rules
- Develop a positive relationship with students, which may include:
 - Greeting students at the start of lessons

- Establishing clear routines
- Communicating expectations of behaviour in ways other than verbally
- Highlighting and promoting good behaviour
- Concluding the class positively and starting the next class afresh
- Having a plan for dealing with low-level disruption
- Using positive reinforcement

9.2 Student support

Seven Springs Education is committed to a teaching and learning culture which enables all students to achieve and thrive, and feel part of our community. This includes removing barriers to learning where they exist and putting effective provision in place to support all students who require it.

Seven Springs Education recognises its legal duty under the [Equality Act 2010](#) to prevent students with a protected characteristic from being at a disadvantage, and under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) to use its 'best endeavours' to meet the needs of those with SEND. Consequently, our approach to challenging behaviour may be differentiated to cater to the needs of the student. The best interests of the student and their learning and achievement remain at the centre of all decisions.

Seven Springs Education is informed by the graduated approach when putting SEN provision in place to make informed decisions and secure good outcomes. All stages are underpinned by a commitment to review. The four stages of this approach are:

- Assess
 - Identify the requirement for SEN support
 - Assess needs based on available information about attainment, their experiences, school collaboration (where appropriate), the views of parents, assessment data.
- Plan
 - Notify parents of SEN support and consult with them and any other relevant staff and organisations (such as the school special educational needs and disability coordinator (SENDCO) where appropriate) on the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place as well as expected impact on progress or behaviour
- Do
 - Specified tutor/s are responsible for carrying out interventions and work with students
 - The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for supporting tutors in these actions
 - Take guidance from parents and the school SENDCO, where available and appropriate
- Review
 - Evaluate impact and quality of support in line with agreed dates
 - Reviews feedback into analysis and development of future actions in consultation with parents

Seven Springs Education welcomes collaboration with parents and, where appropriate, the school's SENDCO to understand existing EHC Plans and strategies in place to promote the learning of all students. Moreover, to evaluate a student who exhibits challenging behaviour to determine whether they have any underlying needs that are not currently being met.

Some behaviours are more likely to be associated with particular types of SEND, such as a student with speech, language and communication needs who may not understand a verbal instruction. Seven Springs Education considers behaviour in relation to students' SEND, although it does not follow that every incident of misbehaviour will be connected to their SEND. As far as possible, Seven Springs Education anticipates likely triggers of misbehaviour and puts support in place to prevent these e.g. short, planned movement breaks for students whose SEND means that they find it difficult to sit still for long.

Where necessary, support and advice can also be sought from specialist teachers/tutors to complement additional actions taken by the school which may include engaging an educational psychologist, medical practitioners and/or others, to identify or support specific needs.

When acute needs are identified in a student, Seven Springs Education liaises with parents, the school and external agencies to plan support programmes for that student. We work with them to create the plan and review it on a regular basis.

In cases where Seven Springs Education is made aware of a student having an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan), we cooperate with parents and, where appropriate, the school and relevant organisations to support students.

9.3 Safeguarding

Seven Springs Education recognises that changes in behaviour may be an indicator that a student is in need of help or protection. We consider whether a student's misbehaviour may be linked to them suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, we follow our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#).

10. Student transition

To ensure a smooth transition to the next year or course for students, staff members may hold transition meetings.

To ensure behaviour is continually monitored and the right support is in place, information related to student behaviour issues and performance may be transferred to relevant staff at the start of the course, term or year.

10.1 Students returning to Seven Springs Education following prolonged absence

In cases of prolonged absence or suspension, particularly when connected with misbehaviour or serious misbehaviour, Seven Springs Education prefers to operate on a 'clean slate' basis. This relies on the understanding between all parties that students show a renewed commitment to our student code of conduct and to positive, respectful behaviour. Care is taken to reintroduce students to our student code of conduct, rules, and routines to ensure expectations are communicated clearly.

Any subsequent incidents of misbehaviour or serious misbehaviour is dealt with in line with this policy.

11. Staff Training

Our staff are provided with training on managing behaviour, including online classroom management, as part of their induction process.

Behaviour management also forms part of continuing professional development.

A staff training log can be found in appendix 2.

12. Monitoring arrangements

This behaviour policy is reviewed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team annually.

The written statement of behaviour principles (appendix 1) is reviewed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team annually.

13. Links to other policies

This behaviour policy is linked to the following policies:

- [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Online Safety Policy](#)

These can be viewed on our website.

Appendix 1: written statement of behaviour principles

- Every student understands they have the right to feel safe, valued and respected, and learn free from the disruption of others
- All students, staff and parents are free from any form of discrimination
- All staff set an excellent example to students at all times
- Rewards and sanctions are used consistently by staff, in line with the behaviour policy
- The behaviour policy is understood by students and staff
- A temporary or permanent ban on attending online classes will only be used as a last resort, and all other options will be discussed with the parent/guardian and attempted prior to this
- Students are helped to take responsibility for their actions
- The student's parent/guardian are involved in behaviour incidents to foster good relationships between Seven Springs Education, the school and students' home life

Seven Springs Education also emphasises that violence or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated in any circumstances.

This written statement of behaviour principles is reviewed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team annually.

Appendix 2: staff training log format

TRAINING RECEIVED	DATE COMPLETED	TRAINER / TRAINING ORGANISATION	TRAINER'S SIGNATURE	STAFF MEMBER'S SIGNATURE	SUGGESTED REVIEW DATE

Appendix 3: behaviour log format

STUDENT'S NAME:	
NAME OF STAFF MEMBER REPORTING THE INCIDENT:	
DATE:	
WHEN DID THE INCIDENT TAKE PLACE?	
WHAT HAPPENED?	
WHO WAS INVOLVED?	
WHAT ACTIONS WERE TAKEN, INCLUDING ANY SANCTIONS?	
IS ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTION NEEDED? IF SO, GIVE DETAILS	
PEOPLE INFORMED OF THE INCIDENT (STAFF, SCHOOL, PARENTS, POLICE):	