



KINDERGARTEN BEHAVIOUR POLICY

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for behaviour management at Thomas's Kindergarten. It is addressed to and must be adhered to by all members of staff.

AIMS

Our aims for behaviour in the Kindergarten are that all children will:

- be tolerant and understanding of the feelings and needs of others
- develop a responsible and independent attitude
- develop an awareness of right and wrong and differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- learn to have respect for others and to behave courteously towards them
- contribute to a safe environment

PRINCIPLES

We expect everybody, adults, pupils, parents and anyone connected to the Kindergarten to be kind, honest, considerate, trustworthy, courteous, responsible, co-operative, friendly and hardworking.

The Thomas's Values further support the development of children and their behaviour through the following qualities:

- Kindness
- Courtesy
- Honesty
- Respect
- Independence
- Confidence
- Leadership
- Humility
- Givers, not takers

We should all respect others' feelings and be ready to help; give praise and encouragement; be sympathetic to others' needs; try our best; tell the truth; be reliable in carrying out our duties; be polite and show respect for property.

As pupils the children should show kindness and courtesy to all members of the kindergarten community; ask for help when necessary; listen carefully and try to have a positive approach to kindergarten life.

Teachers are expected to promote a happy environment for the children; ensure the safety of the children to the best of their ability; establish high expectations and maintain appropriate behaviour in the Kindergarten; deliver the best possible activities and learning experiences to the children through careful planning, assessment and relevant feedback; show courtesy at all times in their dealings with parents.

Parents should support the kindergarten in their education and discipline of the children; show courtesy at all times in their dealings with all members of staff; observe the given term dates; ensure their children are collected punctually.

PROCEDURES

- Kathy Ballantine has overall responsibility for our programme for supporting personal, social and emotional development, including issues concerning behaviour. We require them to:
 - keep up to date with legislation, research and thinking on promoting positive behaviour and on handling children's behaviour where it may require additional support
 - Access relevant sources of expertise on promoting behaviour within the programme for supporting PSED
- We recognise that codes for interacting with other people vary between cultures and require staff to be aware of – and respect – those used by members of the Kindergarten
- We require all staff, volunteers and students to provide a positive role model of behaviour by treating children, parents and one another with friendliness, care and courtesy
- We familiarise new staff and volunteers with the Kindergarten's behaviour policy and its guidelines for behaviour
- We expect all members of our setting – children, parents, staff, volunteers and students – to keep to the guidelines, requiring these to be applied consistently
- We work in partnership with the children's parents. Parents are regularly informed about their children's behaviour by their key person. We work with the parents to address recurring inconsiderate behaviour, using our observation records to help us to understand the cause and to decide jointly how to respond appropriately. We run a Behaviour Management Workshop every Michaelmas term to share our strategies with parents and carers.

STRATEGIES

- We require all staff, volunteers and students to use positive strategies for handling any inconsiderate behaviour, by helping to find solutions in ways which are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Such solutions might include, for example, acknowledgement of feelings, explanation as to what was not acceptable and supporting children to gain control of their feelings so they can learn a more appropriate response.

- We follow the Highscope Six Steps to Conflict Resolution to ensure a consistent approach by all staff, which give the children the tools to self-regulate and manage their own conflicts over time:
 - Approach calmly
 - Acknowledge feelings
 - Gather information
 - Restate the problem
 - Ask for solutions and choose one together
 - Be prepared to give follow-up support

- We ensure that there are enough popular toys and resources and sufficient activities available so that children are meaningfully occupied without the need for unnecessary conflict over sharing and waiting for turns, and use sand timers to help the children take turns with resources such as the computers.
- We acknowledge considerate behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share, George the Monkey and praise are used to reward positive behaviour.
- We support each child in developing self-esteem, confidence and feelings of competence.
- We support each child in developing a sense of belonging in our Kindergarten, so that they feel valued and welcome.
- We avoid creating situations in which children receive adult attention only in return for inconsiderate behaviour.
- When children behave in inconsiderate ways, we help them to understand the outcomes of their action and support them in learning how to cope more appropriately.
- We never send children out of the room by themselves.
- We never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. Children are never threatened with these.
- We do not use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children.
- We use physical restraint, such as holding, only to prevent physical injury to children or adults and/or serious damage to property.
- Details of such an event (what happened, what action was taken and by whom, and the names of witnesses) are brought to the attention of the Head and are recorded in the child's personal file. The child's parent is informed on the same day.
- In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, we make clear immediately the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes, by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
- We do not shout or raise our voices in a threatening way to respond to children's inconsiderate behaviour.

Children under three years

- When children under three behave in inconsiderate ways we recognise that strategies for supporting them will need to be developmentally appropriate and differ from those for older children.
- We recognise that very young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress, and require sensitive adults to help them do this.

- Common inconsiderate or hurtful behaviours of young children include tantrums, biting or fighting. Staff members are calm and patient, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Rough and tumble play, hurtful behaviour and bullying

Our procedures have been updated to provide additional focus on these kinds of inconsiderate behaviours.

Rough and tumble play and fantasy aggression

Young children often engage in play that has aggressive themes – such as superhero and weapon play; some children appear pre-occupied with these themes, but their behaviour is not necessarily a precursor to hurtful behaviour or bullying, although it may be inconsiderate at times and may need addressing using strategies as above.

- We recognise that teasing and rough and tumble play are normal for young children and acceptable within limits. We regard these kinds of play as pro-social and not as problematic or “aggressive”.
- We develop strategies to contain play that are agreed with the children, and understood by them, with acceptable behavioural boundaries to ensure children are not hurt.
- We recognise that fantasy play also contains many violent dramatic strategies – blowing up, shooting etc., and that themes often refer to ‘goodies and baddies’ and as such offer opportunities for us to explore concepts of right and wrong.
- We are able to tune in to the content of the play, perhaps to suggest alternative strategies for heroes and heroines, making the most of ‘teachable moments’ to encourage empathy and lateral thinking to explore alternative scenarios and strategies for conflict resolution.

Hurtful behaviour

We take hurtful behaviour very seriously. Most children under the age of five will at some stage hurt or say something hurtful to another child, especially if their emotions are high at the time, but it is not helpful to label this behaviour as ‘bullying’. For children under five, hurtful behaviour is momentary, spontaneous and often without cognisance of the feelings of the person whom they have hurt.

- We recognise that young children behave in hurtful ways towards others because they have not yet developed the means to manage intense feelings that sometimes overwhelm them.
- We will help them manage these feelings as they have neither the biological means nor the cognitive means to do this for themselves.
- We understand that self-management of intense emotions, especially of anger, happens when the brain has developed neurological systems to manage the physiological processes that take place when triggers activate responses of anger or fear.
- Therefore we help this process by offering support, calming the child who is angry as well as the one who has been hurt by the behaviour. By helping the child to return to a normal state, we are helping the brain to develop the physiological response system that will help the child be able to manage his or her own feelings.

- We do not engage in punitive responses to a young child's rage as that will have the opposite effect.
- Our way of responding to pre-verbal children is to calm them through holding and cuddling. Verbal children will also respond to cuddling to calm them down, but we offer them explanations and discuss the incident with them to their level of understanding.
- We recognise that young children require help in understanding the range of feelings experienced. We help children recognise their feelings by naming them and helping children to express them, making a connection verbally between the event and the feeling. 'Adam took your car, didn't he, and you were enjoying playing with it. You didn't like it when he took it, did you? It made you feel angry, didn't it, and you hit him'.
- We help young children learn to empathise with others, understanding that they have feelings too and that their actions impact on others' feelings. 'When you hit Adam, it hurt him and he didn't like that and it made him cry'.
- We help young children develop pro-social behaviour, such as resolving conflict over who has the toy. 'I can see you are feeling better now and Adam isn't crying any more. Let's see if we can be friends and find another car, so you can both play with one.'
- We are aware that the same problem may happen over and over before skills such as sharing and turn-taking develop. In order for both the biological maturation and cognitive development to take place, children will need repeated experiences with problem solving, supported by patient adults and clear boundaries.
- We support social skills through modelling behaviour, through activities, drama and stories. We build self esteem and confidence in children, recognising their emotional needs through close and committed relationships with them.
- We help a child to understand the effect that their hurtful behaviour has had on another child; we do not force children to say sorry, but encourage this where it is clear that they are genuinely sorry and wish to show this to the person they have hurt.
- When hurtful behaviour becomes problematic, we work with parents to identify the cause and find a solution together. The main reasons for very young children to engage in excessive hurtful behaviour are that:
 - they do not feel securely attached to someone who can interpret and meet their needs; this may be in the home and it may also be in the Kindergarten
 - their parent, or teacher in the Kindergarten, does not have the skills in responding appropriately, and consequently negative patterns are developing where hurtful behaviour is the only response the child has to express feelings of anger
 - the child is exposed to high levels of aggressive behaviour at home and may be at risk emotionally, or may be experiencing child abuse
 - the child has a developmental condition that affects how they behave
- Where this does not work, we use the Code of Practice to support the child and family, making the appropriate referrals to a Behaviour Support Team where necessary.
- For situations where evidence of bullying is witnessed or suspected, our Anti-Bullying Policy is followed.

RECORDING AND REPORTING

A good relationship between parents and the Kindergarten is essential. Parents should feel welcome at the Kindergarten and must have access to the teacher or the Head at the beginning and end of each session.

Reports on development and behaviour include:

- Daily verbal reports.
- Written reports annually.
- Parent/teacher meetings twice annually

Records of assessments of the child’s progress in Personal, social and emotional development are maintained in line with the EYFS.

REFERENCES

This policy has been informed by:

- DfE Statutory Guidance ‘Keeping Children safe in Education’ (September 2016)
- DfE Advice ‘The Prevent Duty’ (June 2015)
- DfE Advice ‘Behaviour and Discipline in Schools’ (February 2014)
- Development Matters in EYFS (2012)

See also: [Disability Policy](#), [EAL Policy](#), [Equal Opportunities Policy](#), [SEND Policy](#),
[Staffing & Employment Policy](#), [Teaching & Learning Policy](#)

This policy will be reviewed annually			
Latest Review: September 2016	By:	Sophie Nevin, Kindergarten Head, Kathy Ballantine, Acting Head	Changes made
Next Review: September 2017	By:	Sophie Nevin, Kindergarten Head, Kathy Ballantine, Acting Head	