



Monday 21 October 2024

Parents and carers in Year 1

Dear Parents and carers,

Following an incident in the Year 1 playground a couple of weeks ago where pupils, parents and staff witnessed an altercation between two Year 1 parents – I today have met and mediated with the families involved.

Since making the change to the behaviour policy last year, we are clear that **violence is not tolerated at this school**. Especially between parents and carers – but also between pupils in the school.

I want to be clear that, despite a child's specific needs, we have a mantra of "same expectations, same aspirations". What I mean by this is, irrespective of a learning need (for example: ADHD or autism), our expectations of personal behaviours are no different. **All children can be taught to be kind, and all children can learn to apologise and say sorry for their actions to others.**

I am aware, through meeting with parents in Reception and Year 1, that there have been instances where children's personal safety has been compromised, and where they have felt threatened/upset in school. As a parent myself, I know that this can leave you feeling a sense of distrust. It can also make your child fearful of coming to school - something I will not accept happening here.

Despite protections, around the Equality Act for children with disabilities, preventing the school from using higher-tier sanctions such as exclusions - the school will ensure that alternative strategies are used to deter the continued poor behaviour of children with need. Offsite direction (a form of exclusion from their usual school to another for a specified period) can be used with approval from the Chair of Governors. We benefit from being able to do this within our partnership and this shows (very clearly to a child) the severity of their actions.

I am pleased to hear that things have calmed over the last week in Year 1 – it will continue this week too. I am at Valentine every Monday and happy to meet with parents and carers – please make an appointment through the office.

All good wishes,

DJ Constable-Phelps .

Mr D Constable-Phelps
Executive Headteacher

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Executive Headteacher: Mr D Constable-Phelps
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