



**Nethergate Academy**

# **Behaviour and Motivation Protocol 2026**

Policy review date: April 2027

## Protocol Overview

The purpose of this protocol is to provide staff, pupils, parents and our school community with information, strategies, and legal requirements regarding how we approach behaviour and motivation at Nethergate.

Nethergate uses positive behaviour support to enable pupils to inform our practice in supporting children who may exhibit behaviours of concern.

Our school values and ethos underpin our attitudes, actions, and words towards pupils in our care. Just as we might support a pupil with the acquisition of academic skills it is fundamental that we also develop behaviours which are safe, functional, dignified, effective and respectful of others. The school's key drivers of **communication, safety, independence, and wellbeing** ensures that these skills or not only expected but supported and taught to children who may have difficulties in these areas. All classes develop a code of conduct or agreement around expectations of themselves and each other based on our key drivers and underpinning principles (see below). Individual Positive Behaviour Support Plans and PLG'S ensure the needs of every child are understood and met.

At Nethergate we have the following underpinning principles

- Positive and meaningful relationships are imperative to our practice between all members of our school community
- Unconditional Positive Regard should be practiced and always reinforced
- Children and adults have a sense of belonging, feel safe, secure, and valued
- The importance of fostering social relationships in a school community and appreciating and celebrating difference
- Responsibility and accountability for one's own actions and their impact on others
- Respect for others, their views, feelings, and circumstances
- Fairness
- Consistency
- A willingness to create opportunities for reflective change in pupils and staff

Nethergate Academy view behaviour as a form of communication. We recognise that there are a wide variety of needs which may result in a particular presentation and this may change over time for particular children. We appreciate that every child, every situation and every family is unique, and we acknowledge that not one approach will support or resolve every child's behavioural challenge. We draw on a range of methodologies and proven techniques and remain curious in establishing the functions of children's behaviour. We engage in a reflective approach that is

knowledge based and flexible to the situation as it arises. At Nethergate, behaviour is analysed so that patterns can be identified and strategies used are informed.

Some of our pupils will not have the verbal language to communicate their needs, wants or distress. Even where pupils have the capacity of speech to explain, this language is not always effective when they are in distress. Positive behaviour support plans indicate pupils preferred method of communication even when distressed. Therefore, it is crucial that the adult attends to the behavioural conversation alongside any spoken conversation. We use the support of speech and language therapists to remove communication barriers.

We would also regard the pupil's sensory needs as a fundamental physiological need; provision of an appropriate sensory programme or diet is put in place for many pupils to ensure they are sufficiently sensorily integrated before engaging with tasks. Sensory techniques are also used extensively to support the purposeful learning of pupils. We recognise that everyone's sensory systems work differently and we use the expertise of occupational therapists to support our understanding of the individual.

### **Responding to behaviour**

At Nethergate, we acknowledge that pupils respond more positively to adults when they have positive and safe relationships. We expect all staff to role model good behaviour (behaviour that is appropriate to the social context) and acknowledge this behaviour to encourage repetition. We expect staff to communicate verbally and non-verbally Nethergate's expectations and values to all pupils. All interactions give staff the opportunity to reinforce routines, expectations and develop meaningful, consistent, and safe relationships with pupils. At Nethergate we use the following to empower our children:

- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parent/carer via call or email
- Celebrating achievements in assemblies/EFL and in communication to families
- Positions of responsibility/Jobs

Behaviour support begins with the curriculum and classroom practice across school. Classroom approaches ensure low level disruption is addressed, basic needs are met and a 'readiness to learn' environment supported. Communication and self-awareness are often areas in which our pupils need to further develop skills and our curriculum reflects this. We use a specific Approach (Zones of Regulation) to explicitly teach children self-regulation skills.

Natural consequences teach safety as well as ensuring expectations are clear, where possible and appropriate pupils are given opportunities for reparation. We do not use a punishment-based approach, and we work with pupils to develop their strategies around taking responsibility without invoking a feeling of shame. Many of our pupils have Adverse Childhood Experiences we avoid triggering further trauma whilst supporting the child to recognise and take responsibility for their behaviour.

Consequences are:

- A verbal/written reminder of expectations of behaviour e.g., - conversation, social story,

- or use of symbols
- Reflection using resources such as What/Who/Why/Where book
- Change in activity or lesson e.g., - Not able to access offsite provisions for safety purposes
- Positive contributions to the school e.g., - watering gardens or tidying areas of school
- Environment change- A pupil may need to be supported to work in a different area for reasons of safety and regulation.
- Suspension
- Permanent exclusion

We recognise that different children have different ways of processing situations and experiences and we ensure that the above take place at a time which is right for the child. Consistency is important across the academy, however reasonable adjustments to the policy may be made in relation to a pupils SEND status or their protected characteristics.

We use the following approaches to support relationships and a restorative approach.

- Respect- for everyone by listening to opinions and learning to value them
- Responsibility- taking responsibility for your own actions
- Repair- developing the skills within our school community to identify solutions and repair harm
- Re-Integration- Working through a structured, supportive process that aims to solve the problem

Reactive strategies may be used in crisis situations these are designed to keep the person and those around them safe from harm. They provide a way to react quickly in a situation when the person is distressed or anxious and/or likely to display unsafe behaviours of concern. This may include the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention (please see Restrictive Physical Intervention section).

### **Positive Behaviour Support Plans and Risk Assessments**

Each pupil has a positive behaviour support plan written by the class team with input from parents, pupils and professionals where appropriate. The plan works in conjunction with risk assessments; all plans and risk assessments are shared with home so that everyone understands the provisions in place. We believe that if you can identify the function of the behaviour, then you can teach someone a more effective and acceptable behaviour to replace a challenging one. We acknowledge that behaviours of concern may be fulfilling an unmet need such as a sensory need or may be to communicate for example hunger.

We record and categorise behaviours into four functions there are social attention, access to tangible items, escape or avoidance and sensory sensitivities. The identified function informs the response in each situation to reduce the behaviours of concern.

If a child requires additional support, we will ensure this is communicated home in order to make referrals to outside agencies. This will support school and families to further develop understanding of children's needs.

### **How do we all work together?**

## **Staff**

Staff are responsible for

- Practicing unconditional positive regard
- Implement the behaviour policy consistently
- Supporting children to identify strategies to help them manage their emotions
- Identify functions of behaviour and implement strategies to support children
- Model positive behaviour
- Ensure positive behaviour support plans are current and individualised
- Ensure all children are treated fairly with awareness of the protected characteristics
- Sharing achievements and successes with parents and carers
- Record behaviour Incidents and Restrictive Physical Interventions as per policy

## **Families**

Families are expected to:

- Support their child in adhering to the pupil code of conduct
- Inform the school of any changes in circumstance that may affect their child's behaviour
- Discuss any behavioural concerns with school
- Be a good role model to their child
- Feel welcome in school to discuss their child in a positive atmosphere
- Build positive relationships with staff supporting their child in school
- Be receptive to new ideas and suggestions around their child's behaviour
- Feel informed about activities and events in school

## **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage positively in learning:

- What good behaviour means and looks like
- How to use strategies to self-regulate
- To respect themselves and others
- To co-operate with others
- How their behaviour may impact on others
- How to resolve friendship difficulties and differing opinions
- What makes them feel happy
- Respect for their property and that of others
- How to behave in a way which means all pupils can learn

## **Leaders**

- Ensure policy and protocol are being used consistently
- Communicate with staff/professionals/parents
- Ensure that staff training meets the needs of the school
- Review all practices in school and make adaptations, where necessary, and after collaborative reflection

- Ensure the culture in school reflects our ethos

## **Staff Training**

Staff will receive a comprehensive programme of training across each academic year. We recognise that behaviour and motivation are impacted by the strategies that we use, the learning in our classrooms and the way we support children to communicate. Sessions will be tailored to meet the needs of our cohort and the experience and understanding of our staff team.

PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment) is one aspect of our training with regard to the support we provide to our pupils. Our academy PRICE instructors train staff in positive behaviour support and restrictive physical intervention in line with the PRICE Safe school's programme. This involves strategies to manage behaviours of concern, de-escalation and diffusing skills and restrictive physical intervention for use as a last resort (and to maintain a safe environment for all). As a school we recognised that unmet needs would impact on children's ability to engage and learn. Each pupil has a Positive Behaviour Support Plan written by the class team with input from parents, pupils, and professionals where appropriate, this works in conjunction with risk assessments and pupil profiles. Members of staff at Nethergate receive regular CPD in strategies which support children's SEND needs from school staff and outside professionals.

New staff are trained in PRICE Safe Schools during the term they arrive, and this is refreshed yearly. Existing staff have their Safe Schools training refreshed yearly, and instructors also have their training refreshed in line with PRICE requirements. As a school we recognise and follow the standards of the restraint reduction network.

## **Searching and confiscation**

Principals and authorised staff can use force as is reasonable, given the circumstances, to conduct a search for the following prohibited items:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs and paraphernalia
- Stolen items
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- E-cigarettes
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury (physical or psychological) or damage to property.

Staff will always give pupils the opportunity to volunteer any prohibited items and support them to identify the dangers related to the items or situation. Where a member of staff suspects that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item and the pupil refuses to cooperate with a search of their person or of their property, the Academy may treat this as a disciplinary matter and apply the appropriate consequence.

Nethergate follows the DFE's guidance on searching and confiscation when disposing of prohibited items. (Searching, screening and confiscation - Advice for Headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, July 2022). Any cigarettes or e-cigarettes confiscated in the Academy may be destroyed.

Mobile phones are not permitted in school by pupils and should be handed to staff to lock away on arrival.

## **Exclusions**

We adhere to GAT suspension and exclusion policy

Pupil Behaviour and Exclusions Policy ([greenwoodacademies.org](http://greenwoodacademies.org))

## **Bullying**

It is important to accurately identify bullying - bullying is a behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying is not an isolated incident.

At Nethergate Academy we have high expectations of all our pupils and expect our pupils to conduct themselves in the best way possible at all times. We aim to provide a supportive, caring and friendly environment which allows all our pupils to learn, grow and develop to achieve their full potential. The school does not tolerate bullying in any form and actively works to prevent it: when it is identified we are committed to tackling it.

Our school ethos promotes inclusion at all levels, whether that is based on race, sexuality or disability. Due to the complexity of need for some of our pupils they may not know or understand that their behaviour constitutes bullying. Similarly, some of our pupils would not have the understanding to know or the verbal communication to express that they were being bullied. As practitioners it is our role to ensure that we are recognising when these behaviours occur and support our pupils to behave and respond in a way that is more appropriate and desirable.

Bullying behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- physical bullying: hitting, slapping or pushing someone
- verbal bullying: name calling, gossiping or threatening someone
- non-verbal abuse: hand signs or text messages
- emotional abuse: threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion: ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, constant criticism or spreading rumours
- controlling or manipulating someone
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls

The following types of bullying would also be defined as a hate crime:

- racial, sexual, transphobic or homophobic bullying
- bullying someone because they have a disability

At Nethergate Academy we use our curriculum strategies and interventions as a tool to teach anti-bullying. Pupils learn about prejudice at a level that is accessible to them. We celebrate diversity, both within our own community as well as nationally and globally. We teach our pupils to be good citizens, to be kind and to understand we are all different but equally valued. We foster a culture of acceptance, and this is taught throughout all aspects of our curriculum including through PSHE and RSE.

We work collaboratively with families to ensure that they can share concerns with staff and that those concerns are dealt with sensitively and promptly. This may include incidents that happen outside of school.

We use our restorative approach to address bullying (as outlined above). Pupils are involved in the process and our model promotes collaboration rather than punitive measures to tackle incidents of bullying.

All incidents of bullying and child on child abuse is recorded on our internal system, CPOMS. Appropriate actions are also recorded as well as any external agency involvement. The system is robust and ensures that we are routinely monitoring incidents and our effectiveness at dealing with them.

### **Promoting and managing pupils' mental health**

The additional needs of our pupils mean that they are more vulnerable to mental health difficulties. It is therefore essential that we put support, interventions, and strategies into place to prevent and respond to this. We make referrals and seek advice from other professionals in cases where our strategies and interventions have been exhausted. We are a MHST (Mental health support team) School. This enables us to make referrals and discuss these with the team before a child reaches crisis point.

The culture and structures that are in place to promote our pupils' mental health are:

- All staff at Nethergate set a culture which ensures that all pupils are valued, and they feel that they belong/have a sense of belonging. This is upheld by all staff treating pupils with unconditional positive regard.
- An ethos of setting high expectations of progress for all pupils with consistently applied support both in and outside of the classroom. This includes clear policies on behaviour and bullying that set out the responsibilities of everyone in the school to manage behaviours of concern in an ethos of unconditional positive regard.
- A senior leadership team and SENCO that oversees the strategic development of provision for pupils' mental health. Key to this is ensuring that all adults working in the school understand their responsibilities to support pupils' mental health and needs highlighted in their EHC plan. This includes ensuring colleagues understand how the school identifies and meets pupils' needs, provide advice and support to colleagues as needed and liaise with external SEND professionals, as necessary.

- Working with parents and carers as well as the pupils themselves, ensuring their opinions and wishes are considered and they are kept fully informed so they can participate in supporting their child in partnership with us.
- Continuous professional development for staff that makes it clear that promoting good mental health is the responsibility of all members of school staff and community, informs them about the early signs of mental health problems, what is and is not a cause for concern, and what to do if they have spotted a developing problem.

We recognise that some of our pupils have had adverse childhood experiences and use approaches which will support them such as the use of emotion coaching and strategies which are attachment aware. These are developed through staff CPD either through the Educational Psychology Service or our own staff.

### **Communication**

To help support pupils in managing their behaviour and identifying functions of behaviour it is important to monitor when and where incidents of behaviour occur. All significant behaviour incidents should be recorded on CPOMS (the schools online recording system). Staff should record the incident and will be prompted for details such as the time. Staffs record should be factual and free from opinion and state the behaviour and the action. Staff will also record what they feel is the function of that behaviour. Staff may also use ABC charts and other systems of recording to spot patterns of behaviour and antecedents.

This information will be used to inform approaches to learning and curriculum content. Positive Behaviour Support Plans/PLG'S and Risk Assessments. It is also used to inform provision across school and school development priorities.

If whilst dealing with an incident of behaviour of concern, an injury, or the potential for injury to have been caused has occurred either to a member of staff or a pupil the relevant form (SMARTLOG) should be filled in and given to the appropriate member of the leadership team. We recognise that we have a duty to work transparently with all stakeholders.

For incidents where a pupil has been injured parents should be contacted and informed as well as the relevant first aid documentation filled out.

Staff teams communicate with parents/carers directly via EFL, telephone calls or email to celebrate achievement and positive contributions across school. School works in partnership with parents and carers to develop PBSP's, parents would be contacted directly for serious incidents such as the use of racist language, physical assault, or bullying.

We share information with other professionals as appropriate in line with our safeguarding and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) policies.

### **Restrictive Physical Intervention and use of reasonable force.**

At Nethergate we strongly believe that when our children are happy and their needs are understood and met this allows them to self-regulate and behave well. We consider self-regulation as something we need to support and teach.

At Nethergate we use PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment) to support our staff training around de-escalation and diffusion when children are dysregulated and if they reach crisis point. All our staff access this training and in addition to this we have PRICE Instructors within our staff team. Restrictive physical intervention is only used as a last resort and for reasons of safety. In the majority of cases, de-escalation and diffusion are the appropriate methods of managing situations. Our practice is guided by the recommendations of the Restraint Reduction Network (RRN).

This school adheres to the PRICE principles for restrictive physical intervention; these are in line with the standards detailed by the Restraint Reduction Network. We aim to reduce reliance on physical intervention and only using minimum force for the shortest time. Physical restraint methods will only be used as a last resort where de-escalation techniques have failed or cannot be used. The RNN standards are designed to protect people's fundamental human rights and to promote person centred best interest and therapeutic approaches to supporting people when they are distressed.

They aim to facilitate culture change and exist to:

- Improve the quality of life of those being restrained and those supporting them
- Reduce reliance on restrictive practices by promoting positive culture and practice that focuses on prevention, de-escalation and reflective practice
- Increase understanding of the root causes of behaviour and recognition that many
- behaviours are the result of distress due to unmet needs
- Where required, the RRN Standards focus on the safest and most dignified use of restrictive
- interventions, including physical restraint

Physical Intervention may be needed in the following situations:

- Causing injury or harm to themselves
- Causing injury or harm to others
- Causing damage to property
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at Nethergate Academy

Reasonable force can be used when there is no other option to maintain the safety of the pupil, other pupils or staff. PRICE principles will always be adhered to when physically supporting children.

### **The use of seclusion**

The school recognises that the use of seclusions as a last resort and should only be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Seclusion should not and will not be used as a threat or punishment, and as with all RPI lawful, proportionate, necessary and for the shortest time possible. Our approach will always prioritise safety, dignity and the best interests of the child with a strong emphasis on

prevention and least restrictive practice. If seclusion is used the child will be supervised at all times and staff will continue to use appropriate de escalation strategies to support. Any incident involving the use of seclusion will be reported and communicated to families as detailed below.

### **Recording and reporting physical intervention**

Following any incident involving RPI, Staff will complete a formal written record either on paper or CPOMS as soon as possible and no later than the end of the working day. Forms completed on paper will be uploaded to CPOMS.

Staff have a responsibility to ensure records are clear and factual. All staff members involved will read the account and add detail if required.

The record will include:

- Time, Date, Location
- Names of individuals involved
- Antecedents
- Legal reason for the intervention
- The type of intervention and level of force
- Time
- Injury, Distress or medical concerns
- Post incident support

All RPI incidents will be reviewed by the senior leadership team at the end of the school day and parents will be informed by preferred method of communication, usually email in line with the DFE guidance April 2026.

Senior leaders and class staff will regularly monitor RPI data to identify trends, reduce the use of restrictive practices and improve the life outcomes for our children.

### **Safeguarding**

At Nethergate Academy, we have a Safeguarding Policy and Procedures that are available to all parties. The ~~Designated Senior Leads~~ for Safeguarding team review and update these policies and procedures, in-line with any new legislation or recommendations, annually. Staff members are expected to read and record that they have read this policy.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Everyone has the right to work in a safe, healthy, and happy environment. We strive to enable all our students and staff, regardless of ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, or orientation to participate fully and happily in the life of the school. We believe that our behaviour management policy upholds the dignity and maintains the safety and well-being of all.

*Documents consulted:*

*BILD Centre for the Advancement of Positive Behaviour Support,  
The Use of Seclusion, Isolation and Time Out, December 2015*

*DFE- Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force in  
Schools- April 2026*

*Education and Inspections Act 2006.*

*DfE Departmental Advice. 'Behaviour and Discipline in Schools,' February 2014*

*DfE Departmental Advice, 'Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and student referral units in  
England,' 2011*

*Restraint Reduction Network (RRN) Training Standards First edition 2021*