



Head's

Update

February 2020

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some changes that we will be making to our Behaviour and Relationships Policy and procedures. Alfred Street is committed to ensuring our children enjoy coming to school, feel safe and make good progress. This year we have introduced new values known as R.E.S.P.E.C.T values: Resilience, Empathy, Self-awareness, Passion, Excellence, Communication and Team Work. The teaching of these values are encompassed into our curriculum, but we have a weekly focus upon teaching and using them in our Commando Joe missions and our assemblies. We also celebrate when the children are recognised for displaying them through our Values Recognition Boards in the classroom, our values stones we are collecting as a school, and our half termly 'Alfo' Awards.

Alongside the teaching of the values, we have also been working with identified children in supporting them to develop their resilience and how to recognise and appropriately respond to their emotions. This takes place through our Commando Joe missions, through emotion coaching and our ELSA intervention programme. In addition, when an incident takes place among peers, staff use the restorative justice approach to explore what took place, the impact it had on others and how it can be repaired going forward. Children then spend some of their social time in our 'Ready to Learn' room, reflecting upon the behaviour choices that they made, alongside our Behaviour Support Assistant, Mrs Bunker.

In addition, the Local Authority this year supported the school to set up a Nurture provision for some of the children who find learning within a main stream classroom a challenge, and have additional needs that need to be met through a nurture approach.

On the whole, the behaviour in our school is good. However, we have a number of children whose behaviour choices are disrupting the learning of others in school, and are repeatedly carrying out behaviours that are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Our recent pupil voice has confirmed that the children also feel that this is the case, and as a school we need to put additional steps in to address this. All of the above strategies will continue to be put into place, alongside the many rewards that we have in school— attendance awards, Fab Friday certificates, Alfo Awards, Dojo certificates and prizes, end of year treats such as bouncy castles.

This half term, we will be launching our new sanction system which will offer clear consequences for behaviours which do not meet Alfred Street's high expectations. After consultation with students and other schools, we have developed a set of next steps, to ensure the classroom environment is conducive to effective learning for all.

There will be a clear set of consequences to deal with the behaviours of the small minority of students that disrupt learning. We will be implementing an 'Ask, Tell, Remove' system. Students will be 'Asked' to stop the disruptive behaviour (i.e. talking over the teacher, not focussing on work, being silly) and if they continue, they will be 'Told' to stop the behaviour. If the behaviour continues, the student will be 'Removed' by a member of staff and taken to the 'Ready to Learn' room for the remainder of the lesson to complete their work. If upon their return to class, their behaviour continues to be disruptive, they will be removed for the remainder of the day.

If a child is removed from class **on several occasions**, or carries out **several** 'Red Behaviours' i.e. they are physical towards someone, swearing, racism, bullying, deliberately damaging property, aggressively throwing equipment, using threatening language, they will in addition to their removal and reflection time, have a same-day after school detention. After school detentions will run from 3.35-4.00pm, Monday to Friday. During the after school detention, students will read the clear success criteria and be expected to complete the work/activity set.

Teachers have statutory authority to discipline pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable, who break the school rules or who fail to follow a reasonable instruction (Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006). This also applies to all paid staff. Teachers can discipline students at any time the pupil is in school or elsewhere under the charge of a teacher, including on school visits. Teachers have a specific legal power to impose detention outside of school hours. In the Education Act 2011, the Government removed the need for schools to provide parents, carers and guardians with a minimum of 24 hours notice with regard to student detentions.

Parents will be informed as soon as the after school detention has been sanctioned, that their child has been issued an after school detention. If there are exceptional circumstances, where a student cannot attend a same-day detention, a discussion should be had with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The School will have the final decision over rearranging detentions.

Teachers also reserve the right to ask students to stay in at break or lunch time to catch up on incomplete work, or to access additional support. These sessions are not detentions but will be put in place from time to time to support student learning.

If a child's behaviour continues to be of concern, we will request that the parent/carer comes into school to discuss support for the student and further sanctions. Further sanctions may include: a fixed term exclusion for persistent breach of school behaviour expectation, temporary loss of school privileges such as attending sporting events and FOASS events, your child attending school on a reduced timetable or ultimately whether their repeated behaviours warrant a permanent exclusion from the school. In addition, consideration will be given as to whether their behaviours are safe for them to attend school clubs and trips. In some serious instances, behaviour may warrant an immediate fixed term or permanent exclusion.

See our Consequence ladder below that will be displayed in the classrooms:

	Treat Trip Alfo Award Fab Friday
	Dojos & Value Stones
	Asked
	Told
	Removed Removal & Loss of Social Time
	Detention & meeting with parents Exclusion & loss of privileges Withdrawn from ASJS

We recognise that for some children, particularly those with a special education need or who have difficulties regulating their emotions, controlling their behaviour can be a challenge and we will continue to put interventions in place for them and to support them.

This sanctions system has been developed after consultation with other schools, as well as our own pupils, who feel that low level disruption in the classroom can disrupt the learning at Alfred Street Junior School. This system will remove these pupils to enable the majority to learn effectively. We are committed to providing the highest standard of education to all of our pupils, and this simple yet fair reward and sanctions system, will enable us to minimise low level disruption, and more importantly give all students further incentive to be the very best they can be. Further information can be found in our revised Behaviour and Relationships Policy which will be on our website by the end of the week.

We have also had a small number of parents and carers whose behaviour towards members of staff has not been acceptable and as a result, a Behaviour –Parents, Carers and Visitors Policy has been put into place outlining our expectations and our approach should parents, carers or visitor’s behaviour perceived as unacceptable—this can also be found on our website by the end of the week.

This process will not affect the majority of students whose behaviour is always exemplary. We hope that you will support us in our actions in order to ensure that your children are safe in school, and are taught how to become good citizens in the future.

Kind regards

Kelly O’Connor

Head Teacher