



Discipline & Exclusion

ECM: Stay safe, Enjoy & achieve,

Discipline

Moral code: The school's policies aim to reflect high moral standards. We do not tolerate bullying or other anti-social behaviour. The school acknowledges, however, that problems are likely to have underlying causes, which the school will take account of and do its best to counter.

In general, the children at South Lee have a high standard of behaviour in school and when representing this establishment at other schools or locations. Good discipline and a caring school community is fostered by the relationships built up between everyone concerned with South Lee (children, staff, parents, governors, etc.,). Co-operation is the key.

It is evident that good standards of discipline result from colleagues taking a corporate responsibility for behaviour around the school and consequently a whole-school approach has developed at South Lee.

Lunch and play times are the occasions during which problems with behaviour are more likely to arise. These periods are therefore staffed accordingly in an effort to reduce such incidences.

Discipline should be developed by using a balance of praise and recognition of good behaviour, and constructive criticism when behaviour falls short of expected standards. We must always strive for consistency in our approach to discipline.

1.
 - a) In school we work together to help children, individually and corporately, develop self-discipline and a proper regard for authority.
 - b) At all times a good standard of behaviour is expected, which reflects well on home and school.
 - c) A high level of care and concern amongst children for other children and adults is encouraged.
 - d) Children are expected to treat all property (their own and that belonging to others) with due care.
 - e) We aim to promote good relationships within a positive environment.
2. To this end, it is the duty and responsibility of:
amongst the children.
 - b) The management team to promote good discipline within the school as a whole by providing appropriate support for staff.
3. Whilst most disciplinary incidents in school will be dealt with on the spot by verbal reprimand from the teacher present, other sanctions need to be available:
 - a) There are occasions when a child may be withdrawn from his/her class situation and asked to work alone. On such occasions the child should be in a situation that is safe and where it is reasonable to expect good work from that individual.
 - b) A child's inability to play sensibly and safely may require him/her to be separated from other children on occasions - at lunchtime or at playtime.
 - c) We reserve the right to withhold participation in educational visits or sports events, not essential to the curriculum, if we feel a child cannot be trusted to behave correctly.
 - d) A child who persistently misbehaves, or whose misdemeanours are of a more serious nature, may be dealt with in the following manner:
 - 1) referral to:
 - i) the class teacher/House tutor,
 - ii) the Deputy Head
 - iii) the Head
 - 2) A telephone call would be made to the parents at an early stage to inform them of the problems.
 - 3) Parents would be invited to school to discuss the situation.
 - 4) In some cases, reporting systems that monitor a child's behaviour - on a daily or weekly basis - may be used. The outcome of these may be discussed with teachers, parents, the individual concerned and appropriate outside agencies should the need arise.

5) As a last resort, suspension (and possibly exclusion) proceedings should be used if a child's behaviour persistently causes difficulties for other children, teachers, non-teaching staff or is a danger to him/herself.

Rewards/Sanctions

All rewards and sanctions must be applied fairly and consistently. None of the school's punishments should be degrading or humiliating. Teachers are encouraged to reward positive behaviour whenever appropriate. This takes various forms, sometimes depending on the age of the child/ren being rewarded. Examples include 'smiley faces' on work, various kinds of stickers, merit marks, House marks, special merits, Head's Commendations or even a simple, 'Thank you'.

Sanctions will also vary, depending on the seriousness of an incident. For example, House/merit marks may be taken away, pupils may lose a break period, privileges may be withdrawn, etc. In extreme cases, the School reserves the right to suspend or even exclude a pupil.

Exclusion

Only the Head can exclude a pupil. Pupils may be excluded for one or more fixed periods, or permanently.

A decision to exclude a pupil permanently will only be taken as a last resort and when other strategies for dealing with disciplinary offences have been employed to no avail, or if an exceptional 'one-off' offence has been committed, e.g.:

- serious violence, actual or threatened against a pupil or a member of staff
- sexual abuse or assault
- supplying an illegal drug
- carrying an offensive weapon

Parental co-operation: Parental co-operation forms part of any contract between the school and all parents of pupils at the school. A refusal to abide by the terms of exclusion may be considered a breach of contract.

Appeals: Parents are entitled to appeal to the governing body against exclusion. A letter stating the intention to appeal should be sent to the Chairman of Governors at the school. A hearing will be set up as quickly as possible.

The Governors' decision is final.