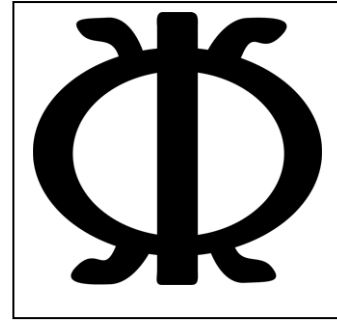




ARUN COURT

THERAPY & EDUCATION



‘Resilience and Perseverance lead to success’



Behaviour Management Policy

Next Review: (would be September 2021, but due to Covid we will review January 2021)

Read in conjunction with our **Child Protection** policy, **physical handling statement** (MAPA), **anti-bullying and anti-racism policy**, **body camera policy** and **exclusions** policy please. Please also read the **ICT agreement** within the Parent Handbook.



Covid 19 update

Behaviour can sometimes be a contributing factor to us feeling we can't continue a placement for a student, as we are no longer 'meeting need' (please see our exclusion policy) However whilst in a pandemic we recognise that there is a much greater need for continuation of placement, even if behaviour is negatively affecting the well-being of other students. Where possible we will try to work with the LEA to keep a student on roll by:

Going back through the current and previous EHCP needs, possibly returning to strategies that were thought to no longer be required

Providing a heavily reduced timetable, Early Departure Agreement and online learning from home

Providing 'link services' from other providers (such a day release to mane chance or Change of scene) or from Big Bear Bespoke Education such as at home tuition and learning in the community

Employing a mentor for the student where emergency funding is agreed

Although we remained open for the whole lockdown, we also recognise that students having been out of school through parental choice will need time to adjust to school life again and that this may affect their behaviour, attendance and ability to participate. Where therapy approaches are not working we may use home visits (by 2 members of staff) to ensure we fully understand the situation and encourage the student to attend and participate.

The purpose of this policy

- To ensure that a happy and respectful ethos is maintained
- To ensure that adults treat children with respect and understanding
- To ensure that children learn key skills such as how to share, socialise and be respectful to people and property

Ethos

At Arun Court, we promote positive behaviour at all times, and in all circumstances: after school groups, clubs, therapy sessions and trips.

We encourage, praise and motivate children. We prefer to spotlight positive behaviour for others to follow rather than highlighting negative actions, for example if a child is refusing to sit down at the table we would point out how beautifully another child has sat down and invite the disengaged child to come and join in the fun with us. We fully recognise that the vast majority of unacceptable behaviour is due to frustration, a communication misunderstanding, discovering boundaries or an underlying anxiety- as such they are positive learning opportunities. We deliver a calm environment in which children are fully involved in making choices about their learning.

When dealing with student's behaviour, we actively promote equality of opportunity and do not discriminate against the disability, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

We recognise the need to set reasonable and appropriate boundaries to help manage the behaviour of children in our care and ensure everyone's safety. When negative behaviour occurs it will be dealt with in the following way –

- Taking time to get to know the child, and the 'tags' they display when anxiety rises – in this way the stress of the situation can be reduced before negative behaviours are displayed
- Distraction and refocus onto another positive situation
- Highlighting the choices to be made and the potential reward of making the right choice
Ignoring the negative behaviour and highlighting a positive
- Talking through behaviour situations after they have occurred using pictorial social stories and puppets
- Using weight therapy techniques, if appropriate / relevant (mainly ASD related)
- Using meditation, time in the dark tent, nurture room, or simply allowing a child to have some time alone before reengaging. We also use further specialist anger management techniques such as 'drawing for calm', 'social skills groups' and motor skills work.
- We will never use any form of physical punishment or humiliate a child in our care. We do not use sarcasm, put downs, a naughty step
- We talk about poor choices and things that make us feel sad. We never describe a young person or their behaviour as naughty. We always take students back to the rule of 'mutual respect'
- When dealing with a physical tantrum or fit we use minimal language and ensure the child is in a safe area. This may involve moving the child if necessary or removing objects from their path. We stay with the child, or observe from a distance if preferable, until they are calm and ready to re-enter the situation.
- The minimum amount of physical restraint will be used only if a child is at risk of harming themselves or others.
- We discuss methods to manage children's behaviour with parents before the placement starts and ensure we are aware of any triggers that promote or distract from positive behaviour
- We use body cameras to deescalate unacceptable behaviour. The student is told that if the behaviour continues the camera will be turned on to record it. See Body Camera policy.

To promote Positive Behaviour we will:

1. Never place an educational objective ahead of a mental health need
2. Demonstrate respect, love and care in all our actions towards children & adults
3. Praise children and show them appreciation and encouragement throughout the day.
Praising a child helps to show that we value them and builds their self esteem.
4. Reward positive behaviour, as this encourages further effort.
5. Set realistic boundaries and limits appropriate to the child's age and stage of development.
Understand that all children are individual and have different abilities.
6. Listen to children's opinions and include them in any planning.
7. Act consistently
8. Use a coaching, facilitating, negotiated and therapy-based response whenever possible and appropriate

Unacceptable behaviour is:

- if a child is attempting to harm another child or him/herself;
- if a child is verbally abusing another child
- if a child is being destructive with equipment
- if a child is verbally or physically abusive to an adult
- if a child is ignoring a safety instruction
- if a child swears or uses racist or homophobic language

Any concerning behaviour will be recorded within a child's assessment notes, the daily diary which is sent home or if the event is more severe in the 'incidents book'. Parents will be advised of strategies we are using to support children in making positive behaviour choices.

Use of Body Cams (please see detailed policy)

Where behaviour is becoming more aggressive, extreme or where sexual swearing, racist or homophobic language is being used to intimidate, a body cam will be turned on but facing the staff member. They will issue a warning that if the behaviour doesn't cease we will have to film it for the staff and students safety. In most cases we find the behaviour stops. If it doesn't stop the staff member will turn the camera around and film until the student is calm. In this case more extreme responses may be needed such as evacuating other students from the room. Parents must be informed within 24hours if film is taken of their young person and are invited in to see it. The film acts as a discussion point around strategies to de-escalate. It may also form part of a discussion with the LEA around a behaviour plan or even termination of placement if we feel we can't meet need. (Body Cams are also sometimes used for curriculum tasks and to film a serious first aid event – please see the main policy on their use)

SANCTIONS

We do not have a sanctions-focussed approach. Through an assessment of risk we may remove certain activities until we are sure that a student is safe to take part.

Where negative behaviour has affected others, we will ask the student to take responsibility such as writing a letter of apology or replacing a broken item.

We encourage a sense of personal responsibility and students will talk through incidences and agree actions together with the staff members concerned. We encourage a sense of empathy with those affected negatively by behaviours being very honest with perpetrators about the effect it has had upon them.

We do not agree with restraint and do not use it, aiming instead to notice the early signs of anxiety rising. However, we will manoeuvre students away from danger by holding their shoulders and turning them. We will also block using our body if we feel that another child or staff member is going to be hurt. In extreme circumstances we may hold a child to stop them being in life threatening danger e.g running into a road. Please see our physical restraint statement.

Monitoring

Behaviour of students is monitored by all staff, including the therapy team. The SLT and EMAT monitor the effective and accurate use of this policy by staff at Arun Court School. The policy is updated and reviewed annually.