

A Summary of Behaviour & Discipline in Schools: A Guide for Governing Bodies

This guidance has been prepared by Vanessa Nice, Head of Halton Behaviour Support Service. It is intended as a summary of the DfE advice updated in January 2017. The full document can be read [here](#). This advice is statutory and sets out governors' responsibilities with regard to behaviour in schools.

Schools must have a behaviour policy which includes the school rules.

Governors must;

- a. make, and from time to time review, a written statement of general principles to guide the head teacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils; and
- b. notify the head teacher and give him or her related guidance if the governing body wants the school's behaviour policy to include particular measures or address particular issues.

Before making their statement of principles, the governing body must consult the head teacher, staff, parents and pupils.

The written statement of principles and the behaviour policy must be published on the school website.

Governors should provide 'clear advice and guidance' to the head teacher on which they can base the behaviour policy in order that staff feel confident of the governing body's support if they follow that guidance. The following should be covered in the school behaviour policy:

- Screening and searching pupils (including identifying in the school rules items which are banned and which may be searched for;
- The power to use reasonable force or make other physical contact;
- Pastoral care for school staff accused of misconduct;
- When a multi-agency assessment should be considered for pupils who display continuous disruptive behaviour; and
- The power to enforce the behaviour policy beyond the school gate in the following circumstances
 - *When the child is taking part in a school-organised activity;*
 - *When the child is travelling to or from school;*
 - *When the child is wearing school uniform or if the child is in some other way identifiable as a pupil of the school;*
 - *If the incident could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school;*
 - *If the incident poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public;*
 - *If the incident could adversely affect the reputation of the school.*

Governors will also wish to consider their duty with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their duty to eliminate discrimination under the 2010 Equality Act.

Employers should not automatically suspend a member of staff who has been accused of misconduct, pending an investigation. The governing body should instruct the head teacher to draw on advice in 'Dealing with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff'.