

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY STATEMENT

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT AND EXCLUSION OF PUPILS

The Diocesan Board of Education urges governors, in their consideration of behaviour management, discipline and exclusion, to temper their deliberations by the Christian values of love, forgiveness and justice. The Board recognises that sometimes this is extremely difficult as headteachers have to balance their responsibility to an individual pupil with their responsibility to a whole class, with the possible end result of rejection of the individual for the good of the whole group.

The Board believes that in a church school, the Christian faith should be communicated through every aspect of church school life. Relationships between staff, pupils and parents should be founded on love and care. Pupils should feel that they belong to a community where they are valued and are encouraged to learn and interact with others in a constructive atmosphere. The Christian ethos of a church school should provide an environment where such positive approaches may be adopted.

The Christian's starting point is recognising that everyone is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth. Additionally, taking as their example Christ's selfless love and compassion, Christians are enabled to create hope and revive purpose. The Christian gospel however, is concerned not only with love and forgiveness but also with repentance and justice. There is a need to recognise that discipline is not only a corrective measure to try to improve behaviour, but is part of Christian love. Everyone has a capacity for self-determination and change. The school should be a place where individuals are encouraged and supported, but at the same time, a place where justice prevails.

Within this context, the Board recommends to governors that their policy should contain:

- a clear statement of the philosophy upon which the policy is based;
- a set of codes of practice for pupils, staff, parents, governors and any regular visitors to the school;
- details of the rewards used to commend good behaviour among pupils;
- a description of the action to be taken when a breakdown in the observance of the codes occurs; and
- suggested procedures for reconciliation and the reintroduction of a pupil into school after exclusion.

January 1995