



St Helens College



University Centre
St Helens

Nursery Childcare Policy – Managing Children’s Behaviour

Relating to: Nursery

Document reference: SHCPolNur15

Document owner: Nursery Manager

Date of approval: 25 January 2025

Date of next review: 25 January 2026

Policy Statement

At St Helens College Nursery we aim to provide a secure, safe, happy, and effective learning environment. We help the children to consider others and respect their environment. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour, safety, and self-control. We support children to understand and express their feelings and respect those of others. All children are treated fairly, with kindness and respect. We promote a working partnership between parent/child and Nursery.

Aims for Children

We aim to support children to enable them to:

- Show respect for themselves and others.
- Show understanding of others and appreciation for what others do for us e.g., saying please and thank you.
- Show consideration for others and show remorse when they have hurt someone, whether physically or emotionally.
- Make amends in a way appropriate to their stage of development.
- Make successful relationships with their peers.
- Develop a sense of fairness and an understanding of being able to negotiate, take turns and share.
- Develop confidence and self-esteem by taking pride in their achievements and interest in their activities.
- Begin to take responsibility for their learning environment by respecting equipment and their own and others work.

The Adult's Role in Supporting this

- To praise positive behaviour as much as possible.
- To implement the settings 6 golden rules:
 - We have kind hands.
 - We have walking feet.
 - We have listening ears.
 - We take turns.
 - We share.
 - We say please and thank you.
- To encourage a sense of responsibility by asking a child to pick up something they have dropped or help to mend something they have broken.
- To support a child to make amends according to the circumstances and their stage of development e.g., to go and get a tissue, help to rebuild a model.
- To have clear, consistent boundaries and explain these to the child in a way they will understand.

- To model behaviour by showing respect for each other, the children, and parents.
- Time out will be used as a last resort, children will be encouraged to sit and think about their behaviour first and foremost.

What the Children can Expect from us

- Approach the situation with a quiet and calm manner.
- Intervene to stop the behaviour especially if someone is being hurt or is in danger.
- Comfort the child who is the victim, this may mean someone else does this whilst you deal with the other child.
- Acknowledge children's feelings.
- Where possible gather information from the children involved and try to find out the reasons for the behaviour.
- Ask the children for ideas or solutions or help the children to choose the solution.
- Depending on the children's level of maturity, help them to resolve the dispute themselves.
- Depending on the nature of the behaviour and the circumstances, children will be given appropriate number of warnings. Explain clearly and in language appropriate to the child's level of understanding what it is that is unacceptable.
- Label the behaviour rather than the child e.g. 'That was an unkind thing to do.' Instead of 'You're very unkind.'
- Whenever possible use appropriate language e.g. 'We have walking feet inside' Rather than 'stop running indoors.'
- If required remove the child from the situation and follow the procedure of time out if this is appropriate for their age (over 2 yrs.) Time out will consist of the child sitting away from the situation for one minute for each year of the child's age.
- Encourage the child to make amends appropriately e.g., getting a tissue, clear up the mess, saying sorry etc.
- If a child's behaviour is consistently challenging staff will share concerns with other staff and discuss strategies for encouraging good behaviour.

What Parents can Expect from us

- A safe environment, appropriate to their child's needs and stage of development.
- To share the settings Golden Rules with parents during the induction process.

- To be treated with consideration and in a professional manner. Parents will be informed on collection of their child of any incidents of behaviour. Parents will be required to read and sign the incident report form. Reoccurring incidents of behaviour will be closely monitored, and parents kept informed.
- To include parents and other professionals when implementing behaviour plans.
- The settings SENCO (Emma Spark, Nicola Glover, Kathryn Lawrenson) will work closely with staff, children, and parents to encourage a positive outcome.

Strategies to Assist the Adult

- Get down to the child's level.
- Use a firm and controlled voice rather than shouting.
- Don't embarrass or humiliate the child.
- Call a colleague for help if you feel yourself getting upset or angry.
- Deal with behaviour immediately, and then drop it.
- Discuss as a team and with the parent strategies to support the behaviour

Physical Contact

Staff should be wary of physical contact with a child which could be misconstrued, if physical restraint is needed where necessary to ensure the safety of the child, a risk assessment will be completed and put in place.

Staff will never use any form of corporal punishment to a child, and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all parents, children, and staff of the Childcare Facility.

Associated Policies

- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Visits & Outings
- Communication
- Parental Participation
- Confidentiality & Record Keeping
- Data Protection & Information Sharing

- Working in Partnership with other Agencies
- Transition
- Equality & Inclusion
- Maintaining Children's Safety & Security on the Premises
- Induction of Staff & Students
- Intimate Care
- Key Person & Settling In
- Dummies
- Nappy Changing
- Supervision
- Staff Behaviour
- Education & Curriculum
- Biting
- Admissions & Registration
- Foods & Snacks

Access to the Policy

This policy will be issued to all Childcare Practitioners and made available to the users of the Childcare Facility. A copy of all policies & procedures will be kept in the Managers office and in the reception area for parents/carers to access.

Post Holder to Contact

Director of Student Services.