

# **ST MARY'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**

## **BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES – WRITTEN STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

1. The governing body of St Mary's RC High School has the duty to set the framework of the school's behaviour policy by providing a written statement of the general principles relating to behaviour and discipline, taking into account the needs of all staff and pupils.
2. The purpose of this statement is to give guidance to the headteacher when drawing up the behaviour and discipline policies by stating the principles that the governing body expects to be followed.
3. The statement aims to underpin the governors' duty of care to staff and pupils; to promote teaching and learning and high standards of attainment; and to preserve the very good reputation of the school.
4. This statement is available on request from the school and can be found on the school's website.
5. This statement, and both staff and students' behaviour policies, will be reviewed every 2 years, unless changes at national or local level necessitate an exceptional review.

### **St Mary's RC High School Mission**

6. St Mary's RC High School exists to serve the Catholic communities of Hereford, Ross, Ledbury, Leominster and surrounding areas. We are here to educate children in a community which has gospel values and the traditions and beliefs of the Roman Catholic church as the kernel of its ethos.
7. The mission of the school is:
  - To develop an understanding and love of the Catholic faith in our school community, enabling all to grow in the appreciation that the school is a community of believers;
  - To value the contribution that all staff bring, knowing that together we strive to build the kingdom of God;
  - To foster the integration of various aspects of human development, spiritual, moral, emotional, social, physical and intellectual;
  - To maintain practical support, guidance and affirmation for all in the school community; and
  - To prepare pupils for their future life in today's world.

### **Our Principles**

8. Our principles are as follows:

To recognise that each individual member of staff or pupil is a unique creation in the image of God, and deserves to be valued equally;

To follow Christ's example by providing a living testimony to the goodness and presence of God, and so to prepare our pupils for a fuller participation as followers of Christ in the life of their community;

To provide a positive and supportive environment in which staff and pupils can maximise their skills and to support them in fulfilling their potential for the benefit of themselves and the wider community;

To provide full opportunity for our staff and pupils to develop their individual talents and build a strong foundation for their future;

To develop effective leadership throughout all levels of the staffing structure, and to use this to create a successful teaching environment where the high expectations of staff, pupils and governors are met.

To ensure that all at St Mary's RC High School feel safe and secure;

To eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment or bullying;

To acknowledge that positive, strong relationships exist throughout the school, which lead to mutual respect between all members of our community that encourages good behaviour;

To enable leaders to lead, teachers to teach and pupils to learn.

## **Our Expectations**

9. We have the following expectations:

That all members of the school community, at all times, behave in a polite and considerate manner, showing respect for themselves, each other, and the school itself;

That pupils behave in a manner that supports their own learning and that of other students, and that does not jeopardise the health and safety of any member of the school community;

That staff and pupils do not use offensive language, do not bully other staff members or pupils, and at all times promote tolerance and respect;

That the school's staff and pupil behaviour policies will be applied with consistency and fairness, with regard to each individual situation;

That the emphasis will be on encouraging positive behaviour through high expectations; the modelling of good behaviour; a focus on learning; and praise and rewards;

That sanctions, when necessary, will enable the pupil to reflect on and learn from, their behaviour, and to make reparation where possible;

That each student receives behavioural support according to their need;

That the focus on positive behaviour, forgiveness and reconciliation will significantly reduce the need for exclusion. However, when making decisions, the headteacher must balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community, and where pupil behaviour places others at risk, the safety of the pupil body as a whole is paramount; considering this, the governing body supports the right of the headteacher to exclude for a single offence, permanently if necessary, where it is considered that allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of that pupil or others in the school;

That, given the overriding duty to keep the staff and pupils safe, the headteacher or his representatives will use their powers to search or to use reasonable force in order to keep individuals from harming, or further harming, themselves or others;

That, given our duty of care to the pupils, this written statement of behaviour principles and the policies that are influenced by it, apply to all pupils when in school, when travelling to and from school, and when engaged in extra-curricular activities such as educational trips and visits (both residential and non-residential).

10. This written statement of behaviour principles was agreed at the meeting of the Safeguarding Committee held on 8 May 2019 and will be presented for ratification to the meeting of the full governing body to be held on 20 June 2019.

Signed:  Pete Fawcett Chair of Safeguarding Committee 16. May 2019