St Francis’ Nursery Unit

Positive Behaviour Policy

Introduction

Pastoral care is at its most effective when it is all pervasive and fully integrated into the school’s daily routines, its curriculum and its extra curricular activities. We the staff of St Francis’ Nursery Unit are concerned for the personal, social and emotional development of all the children in our care, regardless of their age or ability. We wish to develop the children as individuals who are happy, successful and fully participating members of the Nursery, the school and its wider community.

It is our intention to provide a setting which promotes the moral, intellectual, personal, social and emotional development of all its children, where they will feel secure, free from emotional and physical harm and are able to discuss their interests and voice their fears and concerns in a safe environment. It is for these reasons that it is important for St Francis’ Nursery Unit to establish a positive discipline policy; where the children’s self-confidence and self-esteem are promoted; where good behaviour is rewarded and incidents of unacceptable behaviour are dealt with appropriately.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Positive behavior strategies need to be appropriate to the age and stage of the young child’s development. They are the keys to a happy and thriving Nursery environment and are the prerequisite to quality teaching and learning. Unacceptable behaviour within the setting disrupts not only the personal development of the child involved, but may also deprive the other children of their right to be educated in a safe and secure learning environment. Good behaviour is that conduct which assists the setting in filling its function of providing a high quality experience for all the children. This policy outlines a system of rewards, rules and sanctions that are the reasonable expectations that the setting holds in terms of behaviour. It aims to cultivate in the children an awareness that they are responsible for the consequences of their own actions. In so doing we hope to encourage mutual respect for the needs and aspirations of all within the setting, as well as fostering respect for the school environment and the wider community.
Aims

1. To create a secure and orderly school community based on Christian principles and values, which allow each child to fully develop his/her potential personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually.
2. To create an appropriate environment that is conducive to learning.
3. To foster mutual respect among the whole school community - children, teachers, assistants and all other adults.
4. To promote good behaviour through encouragement and praise.
5. To ensure the consistent application of the Nursery rules.
6. To encourage personal development, self-discipline, self-respect and self-worth, that will in turn lead to respect for others and proper regard for authority.
7. To promote responsible attitudes and values for life.
8. To foster respect for the setting's property and the property of others.
9. To make our Nursery Unit a safe, happy, caring environment for all our children where learning and development will not be affected by inappropriate behaviour.

Rules

Rules are implemented in our Nursery are made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

Within the Nursery we emphasise the “Good Things We Do In Nursery”.

Inside & Outside

1. Always Listen to the Teachers
2. Share & Take Turns
3. Use Kind Hands
4. Play Safely
5. Tidy up

Mat Rules

1. Eyes Looking
2. Ears Listening
3. Lips Closed
4. Brain Boxes On
5. Do good sitting
Procedures

At all times the Nursery staff aim to be consistent, fair and firm in our response to the children. We try to make them aware of how others feel and the need for an acceptable standard of behaviour. While the staff make it clear to the children that negative and unsociable behaviour is unacceptable, much more time is spent on the praise and reinforcement of positive behaviour.

In Nursery it is our policy to encourage effort and achievement and to positively promote good behaviour by developing a system of praise and rewards. These include:
1. A quiet word and encouraging smile
2. The use of stickers on jumpers and work
3. All children’s symbols starting the day on The Happy Face Chart
4. Sending home “Bessie Bear” with the children who have behaved really well and worked hard through the week
5. Visits to other Nursery classes, the Vice-Principals or Principal for praise

Procedures for Unacceptable Behaviour

1. The Staff intervene if a child displays unacceptable behaviour, talks him/her through it and encourages the child to act positively.
2. If the child continues to behave inappropriately or in a very boisterous manner he/she will either:
   - Be Withdrawn from the activity to another
   - Have his/her symbol removed from the Happy Face Chart for a short period or until the behavior improves or,
   - Be sat on the “Thinking Chair” for 3 or 4 minutes to calm down and think about his/her behaviour

The staff will use their professional judgement, according to each individual child’s needs, to determine which of the above actions will be taken. Parents will be informed of all such actions on that day.

3. With very serious destructive, violent or continuous disruptive behaviour the child involved will be taken into the other Nursery class, where the teacher will have a word with the child about his/her behaviour.
4. In some cases it is necessary to use an individualised behaviour programme, which will be used at home and in school.
5. In extreme cases, such as a child being violent or abusive towards another child or member of staff, an incident report will be written for the child in question and will be dealt with accordingly by the Principal or Vice Principal.

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6. In extreme cases you will be called by the Principal to collect your child from nursery.

7. It is our policy that any child displaying regular inappropriate behaviour will have the time they stay in nursery shortened until the behaviour improves. This is particularly relevant when the children first start nursery.

At all times, the staff will use their professional judgement in deciding what is in the best interests of the child.

**Role of Parents**

Our staggered intake time in the mornings and the staggered home-time period enable the staff time to speak to parents and care givers about each child's progress and behaviour on a daily basis. It is the role of each parent to support and reinforce the efforts of the staff in establishing and maintaining acceptable standards of behaviour.

**Conclusion**

We, the staff of St Francis’ Nursery Unit, will endeavour to promote good behaviour. We believe that a positive approach to discipline, a strong Catholic Ethos and a family approach to Pastoral Care will provide an atmosphere and setting in which each child can fulfil his/her potential.