

West Exmoor Federation Governing Body - Written Statement of Behaviour Principles January 2026

Education and Inspectors Act 2006 and DfE guidance (Behaviour in Schools, 2012) requires Governors to produce and frequently review a written statement of general behaviour principles to guide the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils. The document “Behaviour and Discipline in Schools-Guidance for Governing Bodies” (DfE – July 2013) has also been used as a reference in producing these principles.

This is a statement of principles, not practice. Practical applications of these principles are the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher. The purpose of this statement is to give guidance to the Executive Headteacher in drawing up the Behaviour Policy by stating the principles that Governors expect to be followed.

The West Exmoor Federation is an inclusive federation and we are committed to teaching and promoting tolerance, fairness, social inclusion and equality. We are committed to improving longer term outcomes and life chances for our children. Our federation vision and values underpin our relationships, curriculum and policies.

Our vision is ‘Educating with love for life in all its fullness’. This is lived out through our values of Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support.

Principles

- All children, staff, visitors and other members of the federation community have the right to feel safe at all times within the federation.
- Governors expect all members of the federation community to behave responsibly and to treat each other with respect.
- The West Exmoor Federation is an inclusive federation and we believe in equality and valuing the individual – all members of the federation community should be free from discrimination.
- The Governors believe that high standards and expectations of behaviour lie at the heart of a successful school.
- Bullying or harassment of any description is unacceptable even if it occurs outside normal school hours. Measures to counteract bullying and discrimination will be consistently applied and monitored for their effectiveness.
- Children have the right to learn and achieve their full potential.
- We believe that positive behaviours should be acknowledged to encourage good behaviour in the classroom and elsewhere in federation.
- The federation’s legal duties in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010 are reinforced through our Relational Learning and Anti-Bullying Policies.
- The Governors recognise that some children may need additional support to meet behaviour expectations, which they should receive.
- The Governors believe that the use of rewards and sanctions must have regard to the individual situation and the individual pupil and the Executive Headteacher and Heads of Teaching and Learning are expected to use their discretion in their use.
- Sanctions should be applied fairly, consistently, proportionally and reasonably, taking into account SEND, disability and the needs of vulnerable children, and offering support as necessary.
- The Governors wish to emphasise that violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by children or parents, towards federation staff, will not be tolerated.

- Sanctions for unacceptable/poor behaviour should be known and understood by all staff and children and consistently applied; this includes the use of fixed term suspensions.
- The Governors strongly feel that permanent exclusion must only be used as the very last resort.

To be reviewed in January 2028