

## Behaviour Policy

**Document Management**

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## Key principles

- Every individual should be, and should feel, safe at the Cherrycroft Practice,
- Everyone should understand our simple rules and shared expectations,
- Children are praised and recognised for positive behaviours,
- Bullying and violence will not be tolerated,
- Children will be expected to share and show our values of respect, friendship, honesty, and resilience,
- Adults will model the highest standards of behaviour.

## Aims

- To create an environment which encourages respectful positive behaviour,
- To define acceptable standards of behaviour,
- To encourage consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour,
- To promote self-esteem, self-discipline, and positive relationships,
- To be respectful to all and challenge inequality and stereotypes,
- To encourage the partnership of home and therapy in the implementation of this policy.

As adults we aim to

- Create a positive climate with clear behaviour expectations,
- Emphasise the importance of being valued as an individual within the group,
- Provide a caring environment,
- Encourage relationships based on kindness, and an understanding of the needs of others,
- Ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability, or disability in line with the Equality Act 2010,
- Show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all.

Staff will ensure that all children are offered equal opportunities and are supported within their behaviour at the Cherrycroft Practice, as individual's relating to all differences that children may experience, including SEN, Neurodiversity and Trauma Based needs.

Any inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with from a trauma perspective and the adult who has brought the child to therapy will be expected to be involved in supporting the child to understand their behaviour is unacceptable.

If the parent / carer is not available at the time of the behaviour, they will be informed of the situation. This will be completed in a non-shaming way, and could include numerous different opportunities, such as a private conversation, text or email conversation between therapist and parent/carer.

## Trauma informed approaches

Trauma informed approaches include the following:

- Place relationships and a child or young person's sense of safety and security at the heart of behaviour management,
- Encourage nurture, warmth, and empathy, even when a child or young person is presenting with behaviours that feel challenging,
- Use PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy), when appropriate,
- Promote a sense of belonging, whilst ensuring clear boundaries are put in place,
- Take individual circumstances into account (there is a need for differentiation in behaviour).

Children are engaged in a therapeutic way, to understand the impact of their behaviour and boundaries are re-enforced. If appropriate, positive rewards will be offered for good behaviour, in consultation with the parent/ carer.

At the Cherrycroft Practice, we do not use a behaviourist approach by offering negative sanctions for inappropriate behaviour.

If a child's behaviour is so disruptive that it could cause harm to themselves or others, it is expected that a risk assessment will be put in place. This child's risk assessment will be reviewed on a regular basis and appropriate actions taken.

As per the Department for Education guidance regarding use of Reasonable Force 2013, at the Cherrycroft Practice, we will only use reasonable force as a last resort, if a parent/ carer is unable to ensure the safety of the child with them and;

- To prevent a child from hurting themselves or others,
- To prevent a child from seriously damaging property or causing significant disorder.

The decision on whether to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

## Reasonable Force

What is reasonable force?

- The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with children.
- Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a child needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- As mentioned above, therapists generally do not use force to control children and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between children or

blocking a child's path, or active physical contact such as leading a child by the arm out of a therapy space.

- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a child under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two children are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- Staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the child.

## References

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/B%26NES%20Trauma%20Informed%20Behaviour%20Policy%20Guidance.pdf>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/444051/Use\\_of\\_reasonable\\_force\\_advice\\_Reviewed\\_July\\_2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf)