St Mary's CE Middle School

Behaviour Policy

Adopted By:	Local Governing Body
Date:	March 2024
Review Date:	February 2025

St. Mary's Middle School

Behaviour Policy

Introduction:

At St. Mary's Middle School, we are committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment that promotes positive behaviour, respect, and responsibility. This behaviour policy outlines the expectations, consequences, and support structures in place to ensure the well-being and academic success of all students.

1. Values and Expectations:

Our school values are at the core of our behaviour expectations. We expect all students to demonstrate:

- Respect: Treat others with kindness, courtesy, and consideration.
- Responsibility: Take ownership of your actions and learning.
- Resilience: Overcome challenges and learn from experiences.

2. Classroom Conduct:

Teachers are responsible for maintaining a positive and engaging learning environment. Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and be prepared for lessons.
- Listen attentively and participate in class discussions.
- Complete work and homework (where relevant) to the best of their ability.
- Respect classroom resources and the property of others.

3. General Conduct:

In all areas of the school, students are expected to:

- Move around the school quietly and in an orderly manner.
- Follow school rules, including uniform guidelines (including those for makeup and jewellery)
- Use respectful language (not racist or homophobic) and behaviour towards peers, staff, and visitors.
- Avoid disruptive behaviour that interferes with the learning of others.
- Do not bring into school any illegal substances, items or inappropriate material *(school has the right to search a student's belongings if they feel there may be such items in their possession) See appendix 1 for the vape wand flowchart*
- Any incidents of bullying will be dealt with in line with the school's anti-bullying policy

This also applies to travel to and from school on school transport. *Please see the 'School travel pages' on our website for details of how we monitor and maintain high standards of behaviour on transport.*

4. Attendance and Punctuality:

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for academic success. Parents/carers must notify the school promptly if a student is absent.

5. Positive Recognition:

St. Mary's Middle School encourages positive behaviour through:

- Verbal praise and encouragement from staff along with house points.
- Recognition in school assemblies or newsletters.
- Achievement awards for outstanding behaviour and academic performance.

6. Consequences:

When behavioural expectations are not met, consequences may be applied. These may include:

- Verbal warnings and reminders.
- Behaviour points being added to Satchel.
- Time-out or reflection periods/ detentions.
- Phone calls home from teachers or tutors to discuss behaviour.
- Parent/carer meetings to discuss ongoing concerns.
- In-school support programs or interventions.
- Detentions (either in-school or after-school).

7. Serious Misconduct:

Serious breaches of behaviour (such as bringing illegal items or substances) may result in more severe consequences, including:

- Detentions (either in-school or after-school).
- In-school isolations or external exclusions - *this links to the school's suspension and exclusion policy.*
- Involvement of external agencies, if necessary.
- Creation of individualised behaviour plans (sometimes called Pastoral Support Plans - PSPs) to assist in positively modifying behaviour.

See appendix 2 for negative behaviour flowchart

8. Restorative Practices:

We believe in the power of restorative practices to resolve conflicts and repair harm. Mediation and conflict resolution strategies will be employed to promote understanding and positive relationships.

This may include creation of Pupil Support Plans (PSPs) with the aim of focussing behaviour and outlining how students will be supported in trying to avoid the need for suspensions and/ or exclusion from school.

9. Inclusive Approach:

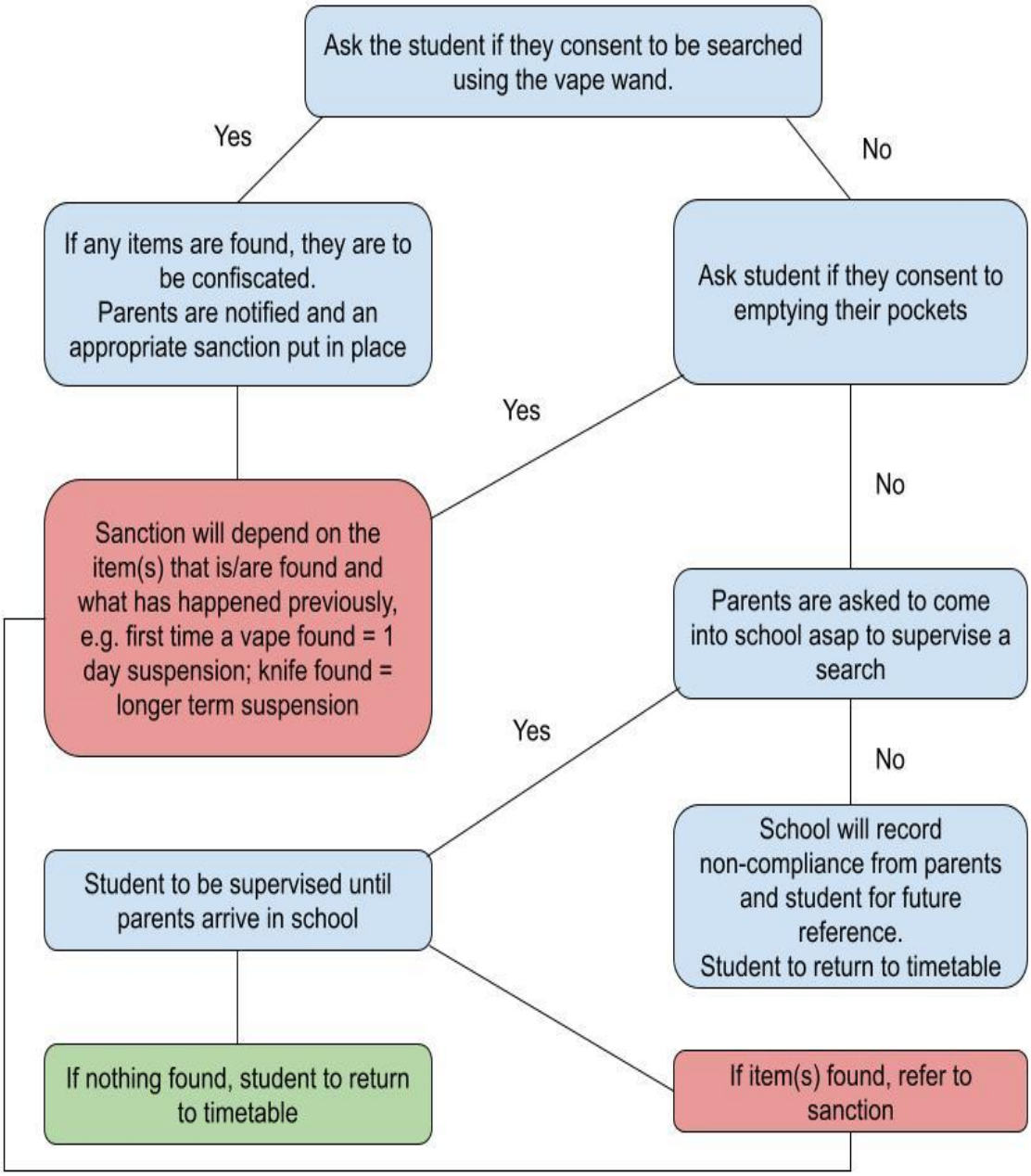
The school is committed to supporting students with additional needs. Individual behaviour plans (sometimes known as pupil support plans) and support strategies will be implemented to ensure every student can thrive.

10. Review and Updates:

This behaviour policy will be reviewed yearly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from students, parents, and staff will be considered in the review process.

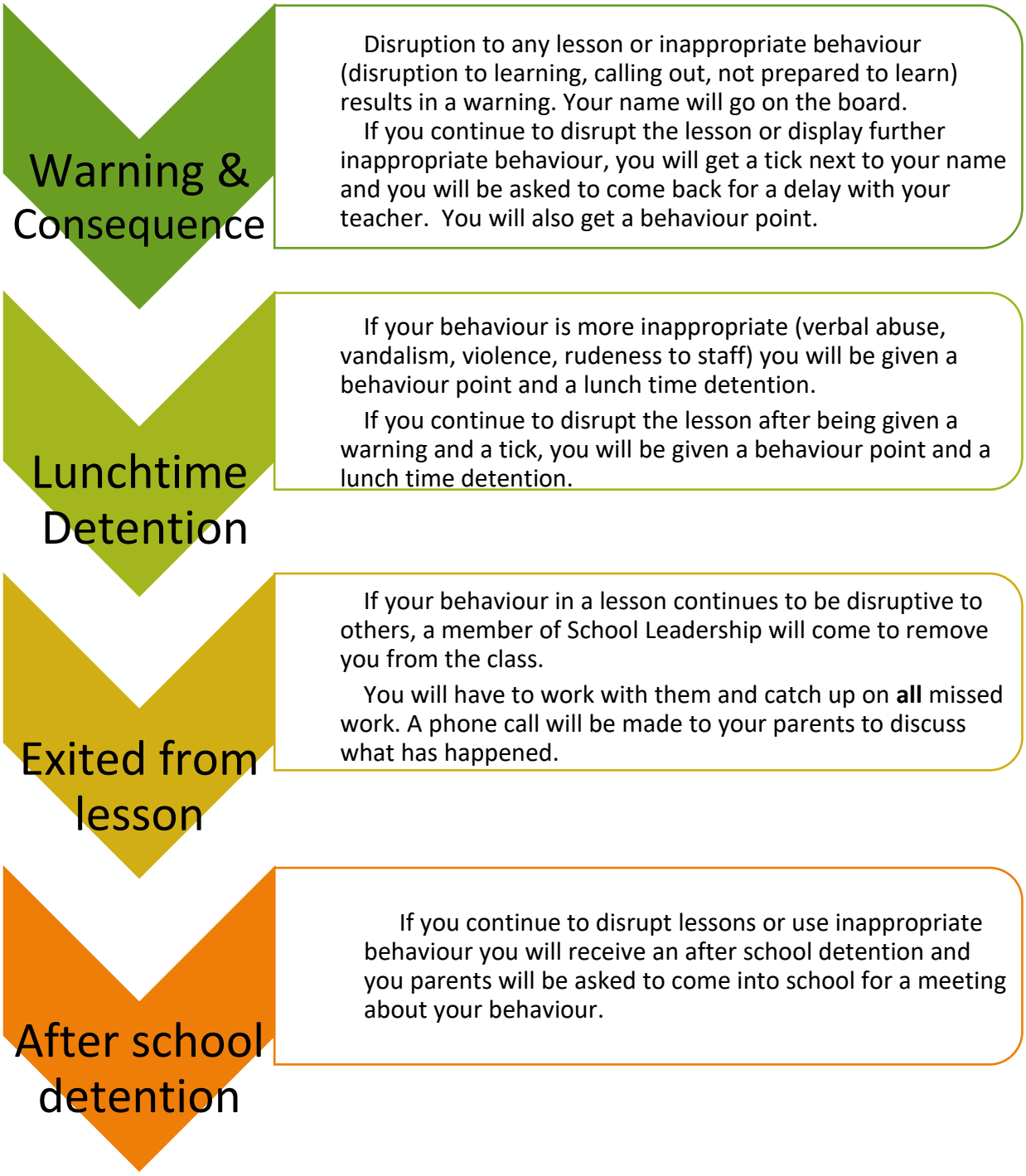
By adhering to this behaviour policy, we aim to create a positive and nurturing school community where all students can reach their full potential.

Appendix 1: Vape wand/ student search flowchart



St. Mary's Middle School - negative behaviour flowchart.

This shows you what the consequences of poor behaviour and choices within lessons will be.



NB: some actions (physical aggression or verbal abuse directed towards staff) may necessitate bypassing this flowchart and proceeding to stricter sanctions, e.g. isolation, suspension or exclusion.

Appendix 3: Physical Intervention (Touch Policy)

Placing hands on a student is always to be avoided. If physical contact will help to guide a student out of a situation, we operate a sideways body, open L-shaped hand approach to gently guide, ideally with palms facing down/away from the child.

If required, it is acceptable for members of staff to make physical contact with a student when it is required to:

- Physically separate a child from their parent
- Carry a child to protect them or place them in a safer environment
- Physically comfort a child in times of distress
- Steering, guiding or escorting a child
- Restraining a child - in exceptional circumstances, staff may use reasonable force to restrain a student to prevent them hurting themselves or others or damaging property

Incidents of physical intervention will:

- **Always be used as a last resort**
- Be applied using the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time possible
- Be used in a way that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned
- **Never be used as a form of punishment**
- Be recorded and reported to parents (see appendix 2 for a behaviour log), a copy of which must go to the Headteacher

If it is necessary to comfort a child in distress.

Staff will use the 'supportive hug' (see picture to the right)

Supportive hug:

- ✔ Sideways stance
- ✔ Hip in
- ✔ Head away
- ✔ Closed mittens (hands) on each shoulder
- ✔ Clear verbal intent/reasoning

Appendix 4: Off-site behaviour

Behaviour that occurs outside the school premises, including online behaviour, that the school might decide an appropriate protective or educational consequence is necessary includes:

- When taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity,
- When travelling to or from school,
- When wearing school uniform,
- When in some other way identifiable as a student of our school,
- That could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school,
- That poses a threat to another student, or
- That could adversely affect the reputation of the school.