Newburn Manor Nursery School



Monkchester Road Nursery



Ashfield Nursery School

Newcastle Nursery Schools Federation

Behaviour Policy

October 2026
To be reviewed October 2027

At Ashfield Nursery School, we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, inclusive, and respectful environment where all children can learn, play, and thrive. We believe that positive behaviour is developed through strong relationships, clear expectations, consistency, and partnership with families.

Our approach promotes children's emotional wellbeing, self-regulation, confidence, and social skills while supporting them to understand appropriate behaviour and respect for others.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Promote positive behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- Support children in developing self-regulation and emotional resilience.
- Foster mutual respect, kindness, and inclusion.
- Ensure children feel safe, valued, and listened to.
- Provide a consistent approach to behaviour management across the nursery.
- Work collaboratively with parents and carers.
- Meet the needs of all children, including those with additional needs.

Principles

We recognise that:

- Children are continually developing socially and emotionally.
- Behaviour is a form of communication.
- Positive relationships are fundamental to effective behaviour support.
- Praise and encouragement are more effective, we use consequences rather than punishment.
- Each child is unique and may require individual support.
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion underpin our practice.

Staff will always seek to understand the reasons behind a child's behaviour and respond appropriately to their developmental stage and individual needs.

Expected Behaviour

Children will be supported to:

- Be kind and respectful to others.
- Use gentle hands and kind words.
- Share and take turns where appropriate.
- Listen to and follow simple instructions.
- Care for resources, equipment, and the environment.
- Express feelings appropriately.
- Seek help from adults when needed.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Staff will:

Build Positive Relationships

- Greet children warmly.
- Spend time getting to know individual children and families.
- Model respectful and positive behaviour.

Create a Positive Environment

- Establish clear and age-appropriate routines.
- Maintain engaging learning opportunities.
- Provide a safe, stimulating, and organised environment.

Use Positive Reinforcement

- Offer specific praise and encouragement.
- Celebrate positive choices and achievements.
- Recognise effort as well as success.
- Encourage children to reflect on positive behaviour.

Support Emotional Development

- Help children identify and express emotions.
- Teach problem-solving skills.
- Encourage empathy and understanding.
- Use age-appropriate strategies to support self-regulation.

Managing Challenging Behaviour

When challenging behaviour occurs, staff will:

1. Remain calm and professional.
2. Consider the child's age, stage of development, and circumstances.
3. Acknowledge the child's feelings.

4. Redirect attention to positive activities where appropriate.
5. Explain clearly why a behaviour is unacceptable.
6. Support children to repair relationships and resolve conflicts.
7. Work collaboratively with parents where concerns persist.

Staff will focus on teaching positive and appropriate behaviour.

Strategies Staff May Use

Appropriate strategies include:

- Positive reminders.
- Distraction and redirection.
- Providing choices.
- Modelling appropriate behaviour.
- Supporting children to solve problems.
- Individual behaviour support plans where necessary.
- Visual supports, routines, and social stories.
- Calm spaces for children who need time to regulate emotions.

Unacceptable Practices

The following practices will never be used:

- Physical punishment or threats of punishment.
- Humiliation, ridicule, or shaming.
- Withholding food, drink, comfort, or access to toileting facilities.
- Use of offensive, discriminatory, or degrading language.
- Intimidation or aggressive behaviour by adults.
- Punishments that are unrelated to the behaviour displayed.

Supporting Children with Additional Needs

Some children may require additional support due to:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Communication and language needs.
- Social, emotional, or mental health needs.
- Trauma, adverse childhood experiences, or medical conditions.

Where appropriate, the nursery will:

- Work with parents and carers.
- Involve relevant professionals.
- Develop individual support plans.
- Make reasonable adjustments to meet children's needs.

Partnerships with Parents

We believe that positive behaviour support is most effective when home and nursery work together.

We will:

- Share positive achievements regularly.
- Discuss concerns at an early stage.
- Work collaboratively to identify solutions.
- Maintain open and respectful communication.

Parents and carers are encouraged to share any information that may affect their child's wellbeing or behaviour.

Serious Incidents

Any significant behavioural incidents involving:

- Serious aggression,
- Harm to self or others,
- Damage to property, or
- Repeated concerning behaviour

will be recorded and shared with parents/carers. Appropriate support strategies will be implemented and reviewed.

Where necessary, external agencies may be consulted.

Roles and Responsibilites

Headteacher / SLT

- Ensure effective implementation of the policy.
- Support staff with behaviour management.
- Monitor behaviour incidents and outcomes.

Staff

- Apply the policy consistently.
- Promote positive behaviour.
- Record significant incidents.
- Communicate effectively with families.

Parents/Carers

- Work in partnership with the nursery.
- Support agreed behaviour strategies.
- Share relevant information about their child.