



Promoting Positive Behaviour

We believe that children flourish best when their emotional needs are understood, supported and met and where there are clear, fair and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

As children develop, they learn about boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and to consider the views and feelings, and needs and rights, of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. The development of these skills requires adult guidance to help encourage and model appropriate behaviours and to offer intervention when children struggle with conflict and emotional situations. In these types of situations key staff can help identify and address triggers for behaviour and help children reflect, regulate and manage their actions.

Understanding and Supporting Children's Behaviour

Behaviour is a means of communication. A sympathetic and compassionate approach to children's behaviour reframes the question 'What is wrong with you?' to 'What has happened to you?' This question helps us consider looking past the behaviour and to better understand what has occurred in a child's life to make them behave in a certain way. For example, is there a change at home? Maybe there is a new baby sibling to adjust to, a marital breakdown or something as simple as being an only child and not having experience in self-regulation and playing cooperatively with others.

Our role as adults in positively supporting children's behaviour is to understand the cause and focus on the reasons behind it. We are not managing or controlling children's behaviour to make them comply to our own expectations, but we do need to ensure everyone is kept safe.

It is important for adults to bear in mind the age, capability, and development stage of each child. Children need a set of boundaries of behaviour for their own safety and the safety of their peers. At St Richard's nursery we aim to set these boundaries in a way which helps every child develop a sense of his/her own self-worth and the significance of their own behaviour, both on their environment and the people around them. We actively encourage children to explore and develop their own ideas and keep restrictions to a minimum.

Working together promoting positive behaviour and ensuring everyone is valued will help children grow into responsible members of society.

Corporal punishment (slapping, smacking or shaking) or threatening corporal punishment will **NEVER** be acceptable practices and **WILL NOT BE USED**. However, it may be

necessary to use physical intervention in an emergency to prevent personal injury or serious damage to property. Details of any event will be recorded, and parents informed the same day as documented in the EYFS. We operate an open-door policy at St Richard's and parents should feel free to discuss any concerns they may have with the manager or key person of their child.

At St Richard's Nursery we

1. Promote positive behaviour.
2. Encourage and support self-regulation, consideration for each other, our surroundings, and our property.
3. Praise children and acknowledge their positive actions and attitudes. We help children see that we value and respect them.
4. Provide support and co-regulation to children who need help with their behaviour. Helping them develop emotional intelligence-understanding how to recognize and name their feelings.
5. Implement rules concerned with care and safety and respect for one another. Children who physically abuse others may be removed from the group for a short period in order to calm down if needed and ensure the safety of others.
 - 5.1 The child who is upset will be comforted.
 - 5.2 Any feelings of anger or upset that may have triggered the behaviour will be acknowledged. It is important to explain calmly how a child's actions impact on others and it is the actions that are an issue not the child themselves.
 - 5.3 St Richard's promote British values and a set of these are displayed in the setting.
 - 5.4 Our Robin's rules are,
We are kind.
We have kind hands.
We have kind feet.
We use kind words.
We care for each other.
We listen to each other, care for our nursery and have fun.
 - 5.5 These are referred to when dealing with distressed behaviour to promote consistency.
 - 5.6 Once a child has managed to calm him//herself, he/she will be supported to rejoin the group.
6. Every child is unique, and their behaviour will be handled according to their circumstances. This may include:
 - 6.1 Using the calm welcome/book area if a child needs to calm down or the office pod if a child needs to be separated if there is a real risk of repeat behaviour. This is not a punishment but a method to restore control and calm for the children.

7. It is important for a child to reconnect with their carer after a tantrum or conflict. It helps children feel safe, and enables them to move on from their distress. It also helps children learn that their difficult feelings (fear, anger and sadness) are temporary and there are things they can do to help make themselves feel better. They learn about: resolving differences, particularly if conflict is involved, managing disappointment, calming themselves and moving forward. These coping skills help children feel happier, and more able to achieve their goals. Our aim is to support **all** children in achieving these.
8. Parents will be informed if their child is persistently attacking others or if their child has been upset. All behaviour that has caused distress will be dealt with in nursery at the time. On occasion parents may be asked to meet with staff to discuss their child's behaviour particularly if it is ongoing. This will enable both nursery and parents to work together to ensure there is consistency between the two. If necessary we will ask permission of parents to seek additional advice from specialists such as educational psychologist or Early years Advisory Teacher.
9. Children need to develop non-aggressive strategies to enable their voice to be heard so that adults and children listen to them. They also need support and opportunities to recognize and release their feelings more creatively.
10. Children need their own space and time. It is not always appropriate to expect a child to share. It is important to acknowledge children's feelings to help them understand how others might be feeling.
11. Children must be encouraged to recognise that bullying, fighting, hurting others and racist comments are **not** acceptable behaviour. Children need to recognise that certain actions are **right** and others are **wrong**.
12. The staff at St Richard's model positive behaviour when interacting with the children and one another.
13. Where a child is unable to moderate his/her behaviour over time in response to the support strategies being used such that he/she continues to present a risk of causing harm to other children, him/herself or staff, St Richard's Nursery may deem that under their duty of care, it is not safe for the child to attend and reserves the right to ask parents to remove him/her from the nursery. This will only ever be done as a very last resort, following full consultation with parents/carers.

Date for review: April 2026