



# Wordsworth Primary School

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[www.wordsworthprimary.co.uk](http://www.wordsworthprimary.co.uk)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you with our updated behaviour policy, which is also available on our website (see link below)

<https://www.wordsworthprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3835&type=pdf>

Our policy remains largely the same as previously, but we wanted to emphasise that we are advocates of the **'Trauma Informed Approach'**

Essentially this means that well-being, and feeling physically and psychologically safe is of the highest priority to us.

We obviously need and have rules and boundaries in place to keep our children safe. However, when children do not behave appropriately, our approach is to educate, support, provide learning points or consequences if necessary, but not to punish or shame.

'Trauma' is the word used to explain experiences, which are frightening and harmful; this could be the death of a loved one, a health scare or accident, bullying, or abuse and neglect. All of us will experience trauma of some sort in our lives to some degree. **It is also now widely recognised that the pandemic was a traumatic experience for all of our children.**

Trauma-informed care seeks to realise the widespread impact of trauma and understand paths for recovery; recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma in children, families, and staff; and integrate knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices.

Throughout our behaviour management procedures therefore, we look for ways of supporting children that recognise specific needs or behaviour that acts as a barrier to learning because of past or ongoing trauma. We aim to provide an environment and relationships for children that heal minds, brains and bodies.

Much of the Trauma Informed Approach revolves around the way we listen, talk to and respond to our children. A further part of it involves Restorative Practice. We aim for our children to build positive relationships with one another and grow as individuals who are ready to navigate future relationships, demands and challenges. This means being able to recognise, reflect and repair when things go wrong.

Several members of our staff are undertaking or have already completed the Trauma Informed Schools Diploma to support our work in this area. If you would like to know more about this please visit: <https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/>



## **PSHE – Relationships and Health Education Policy**

A lot of the Trauma Informed Approach and our thinking around behaviour, relationships and community is reinforced through our PSHE curriculum.

We are required to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This sits alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. We are clear that parents and carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters. We aim to complement and reinforce this role, building on what pupils learn at home. Please therefore see our updated Relationships and Health Education Policy which explains this part of the PSHE curriculum, including the statutory content.

<https://www.wordsworthprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3836&type=pdf>

Ultimately, we want the knowledge and attributes gained through our whole school approach to behaviour and our comprehensive PSHE curriculum, to support our young people with their own, and others', wellbeing and to help them become successful and happy adults who can make a meaningful contribution to society.

Please do contact us if you have any comments, queries or concerns,

Kind regards,

Sarah Barwell (Deputy Head)

