



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream-Discover-Flourish

15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to our Behaviour Policy

We are extremely proud of our pupils and the way they always want to be the best they can be. Unfortunately we have recently seen some unusual and unacceptable behaviour on our playground with an increase in some children becoming very upset and hitting out at others. This behaviour has not often been seen before and we feel it is likely to be a sad reflection on the pressures that Covid lockdowns have had on children's chances to play and share with others.

We are determined to eradicate any negative behaviours and are committed to supporting all children to be kind and caring citizens.

In order to do this we are changing what we do. For some children, the loss of 5 minutes of playtime is enough for them to think and change their behaviour. However, when something more significant has happened we will now remove the child from the playground and they will lose the rest of their playtime. (If the incident has happened in the last 5 mins of playtime, the child will lose the whole of the next playtime session). During this loss of play, staff will take the time to find out why the incident happened, what needs to be done and how we can help them change their behaviour. We feel this new strategy will help de-escalate tense situations and clearly demonstrate that we cannot tolerate unkind behaviour. For some children, this could mean that they lose a series of playtimes so that they can work with an adult to get this right and manage their feelings and emotions better. The child who was hurt, and any witnesses, will also be supported.

These are young children and they will make mistakes! In particular, our youngest children may not have the words to express their frustration and may hit out because of this. Just as you would at home, we will teach them how to play kindly and make amends when things go wrong.

As always, if your child reports any incident to you, please don't hesitate to inform the class teacher.

Don't forget!

Please send in a copy of your hand print to be included in our whole school display and to show your support for Anti-bullying.

Please join us by completing a cut out of your hand and colour it in, or make patterns on it, in BROWN crayons, paint or felt tip. (We have spares of these if you need them!)

Please return your cut out handprint in your child's book bag by Thursday 21st October.

Thank you!

Marian Haines

