

TRINITY ACADEMY NEWCASTLE TRUST

**Positive Relationship Policy (Behaviour Policy)
The Sanctuary**

Approved by the Board of Trustees – July 2026

Next review date – July 2027

Introduction

This policy sets out how Trinity Academy Newcastle Multi Academy Trust (TANMAT) promotes and sustains positive relationships across all its academies. It is grounded in the belief that behaviour is a form of communication and that every child's actions reflect an underlying need. Our role is to understand, respond to, and positively influence those needs within a relational, trauma-informed framework.

The Sanctuary centre is designed as a fully trauma informed and attachment aware learning environment where children and young people can continue their education whilst resolving personal challenges. At The Sanctuary, we believe that the purpose of education is to enable every child and young person to develop the knowledge, skills and emotional resilience needed to lead a fulfilling, productive and meaningful life, regardless of the experiences or challenges they have faced.

This Positive Relationship Policy replaces a punitive model of behaviour management with a values-led, restorative approach. It is built on the Trust's core values of being Calm, Kind, and Honest, and is guided by the Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect (PRRR) framework. It has been developed to meet the needs of both learners and staff, ensuring TANMAT can provide an inclusive, safe, and enriching education for all.

Aims

Our academies aim to provide a caring, calm, and secure environment in which mutual respect, emotional safety, and positive relationships are actively fostered. We aim to promote a culture where every learner feels valued, understood, and supported to grow.

Our aim is to develop each learner's ability to thrive academically, socially and personally. We recognise that many of our children and young people have experienced adversity, trauma or disrupted relationships, and therefore understand that learning can only flourish when individuals first feel safe, valued and understood.

Everything we do is rooted in trauma-informed and attachment-aware practice. We create a nurturing environment where physical, emotional and psychological safety is prioritised, allowing children and young people to build trusting relationships, develop a sense of belonging and gain confidence in themselves and others.

Once a strong sense of safety and trust has been established, children and young people are supported to explore, understand and reprocess experiences that may have shaped unhealthy patterns of behaviour. Through therapeutic interventions, restorative approaches, meaningful education and personalised support, learners develop healthier ways of thinking, feeling and responding to the world around them.

Our structured therapeutic environment places emotional wellbeing and self-regulation at the heart of learning. By helping children recognise, understand and regulate their emotions, we aim to prevent temporary reactions becoming lifelong behavioural patterns. In doing so, we empower every learner to become more resilient, independent and emotionally secure, enabling them to engage successfully in education, build positive relationships and prepare confidently for their future.

We aim to:

- Encourage a calm, purposeful, and relational atmosphere that is conducive to good learning.
- Foster positive attitudes towards self and others, recognising and valuing achievements at all levels.
- Enable learners to understand their own behaviour and its impact on others.
- Encourage increasing self-regulation and self-discipline, so each child learns to take responsibility for their choices.
- Provide a consistent, fair, and relational approach to behaviour across all academies.
- Make the boundaries of acceptable behaviour clear, understood, and explained with empathy.
- Enable all learners and staff to feel physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe.
- Provide an engaging, well-planned curriculum alongside the development of social, emotional, and behavioural skills.
- Implement a trauma-informed, relational approach to understanding and influencing behaviour.
- Ensure that consequences are logical, proportionate, and educational — not punitive.

Expectations

TANMAT maintains clear expectations for all members of its community. These expectations are held with warmth and consistency, understanding that learners with SEMH and SEND needs may require additional support to meet them. Expectations are not used as instruments of shame or coercion, but as a shared framework for community life.

The following is a list of expectations for learners within TANMAT:

- To attend school regularly and engage willingly with learning
- To respect, support, and care for each other
- To be kind, calm, and honest with themselves and others
- To be tolerant of others irrespective of race, gender, religion, sexuality, or age
- To listen to others and respect their opinions
- To follow a reasonable request from adults throughout the school day
- To accept and/or seek the support of adults at times of need
- To learn and understand the consequences of actions and their impact on others
- To make their views known to adults in appropriate ways
- To engage in learning new skills and knowledge
- To follow all health and safety rules
- To respect the school environment
- To know how to behave positively in school and beyond
- That everyone has social, emotional, and mental health, and that all have the right to be safe, respected, and treated equally

The following is a list of rights all persons within TANMAT should expect:

- For everyone to feel physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe
- To have the opportunity to access or deliver a valuable education
- To have the opportunity to undertake their role effectively
- For everyone to be respected and valued

- To express their views, be listened to, and consulted
- To learn from mistakes and use them to drive forward positive change
- To access an environment in which they feel accepted and belong

Statutory and Policy Framework

This policy has been developed in connection with the following legislation and national guidance:

- Children and Families Act (2014)
- The Equality Act (2010) – ensuring reasonable adjustments for learners with protected characteristics
- SEND Code of Practice (2015) – particularly Chapters 1, 6, and 7
- Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff (DfE, 2022)
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (DfE, 2022)
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion: Statutory Guidance (DfE, 2023)
- Restrictive Interventions, Including Use of Reasonable Force, in Schools (DfE, April 2026) — statutory guidance under s.93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (DfE, 2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2023)
- Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, August 2024, statutory)

Links to Other Documents

This policy should be read alongside the following:

- Caregiver Engagement Policy
- Staff mental health and wellbeing policy
- Learner mental health policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Attendance policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Positive handling policy
- Equal opportunities and equality and diversity policy
- KCSIE (2025)
- Complaint policy
- Exclusion policy
- Mobile phone policy
- Weapons policy and practice guidance
- Pastoral support systems policy (Appendix ii)
- Drivers behind behaviour (Appendix i)
- Targeted interventions (Appendix iii)
- Inclusion continuum (Appendix iv)

Understanding Behaviour as Communication

The central principle of this policy is that all behaviour communicates a need. TANMAT draws on the Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) and a biopsychosocial understanding of development to interpret the behaviour of learners. Rather than categorising behaviour as simply 'good' or 'bad', staff are supported to ask: what is this behaviour communicating, and what does this learner need?

Presenting behaviours are understood through three interconnected brain regions:

Primal Behaviours (Brain Stem):

These are linked to the learner's stress response system, often developed through exposure to adverse experiences. They include fight, flight, freeze, and flop responses. Staff should prioritise safety and co-regulation before any attempt at reasoning or consequence.

Emotional/Attachment Behaviours (Limbic System):

These present as heightened or reduced emotional reactions, attachment-seeking, or attachment-avoidant behaviour. They reflect the learner's relational history and their expectations of adult relationships. The PACE approach is essential here.

Identity Behaviours (Neocortex):

These reflect the learner's developing sense of self and their conditioned responses to the world. They may appear as deliberate or chosen actions but often arise from deeply held core beliefs shaped by adverse experience. Mentoring, motivational interviewing, and life story work are appropriate approaches.

Underlying drivers of all behaviour are assessed using ten need categories:

- Feeling afraid or unsafe (Safety behaviour)
- Need to manage or control others and relationships (Boundaries behaviour)
- Need to feel related and connected (Belonging behaviour)
- Need for a sense of control and empowerment (Power behaviour)
- Need for independence and autonomy (Seeking behaviour)
- Need to enjoy and be engaged (Pleasure-seeking behaviour)
- An attempt to regulate the emotional and sensory environment (Self-regulation behaviour)
- Limited skills or ability in cognition and language (Ability behaviour)
- Conditioned low-level actions constantly reoccurring (Habitual behaviour)
- Reaction to physical pain or discomfort (Pain-related behaviour)

Caution: A learner's presentation may reflect a mixture of drivers, and underlying needs may alter over time. Constant reflection and reviewing are essential.

The PRRR Framework: Protect, Relate, Regulate, Reflect

TANMAT's universal and targeted approaches are organised within the Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect (PRRR) framework. This framework guides every interaction between staff and learners, from routine classroom encounters to crisis situations.

Protect

The first element is the creation of safety. Universally, the values of calm, kindness, and honesty are reinforced through staff modelling their interactions, presentation, and conduct. Staff are expected to remain mindful of both their verbal and non-verbal communication, including body language, tone of voice, and facial cues. This supports a low-arousal approach, preventing defensive or triggered responses from learners.

Relate

The Trust uses every interaction as an opportunity to build a strong interpersonal connection whilst maintaining professional boundaries. Through the PACE approach (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy), staff can be experienced by learners as safe, consistent, and containing. Each learner will have at least three identified key adults within their academy.

Regulate

Staff use co-regulation strategies to help learners manage their emotional and physiological state. Regulation always precedes reflection and reasoning. When a learner is in a state of heightened arousal, consequences and discussions are not effective. Staff create space for the learner to return to their window of tolerance before engaging in any discussion.

Reflect

Once a learner is regulated and relationally connected, staff support them to reflect on their actions and their impact. Restorative approaches are used to help the learner make sense of what happened, repair any harm, and develop new strategies for the future. Reflection is not a punishment but a learning process.

At The Sanctuary, every aspect of our environment has been intentionally designed around the needs of the children and young people we support. This includes a calming space and a movement area – including outdoor park. These spaces can be used in periods of dysregulation. Our calm, nurturing spaces promote relaxation and emotional safety, with careful consideration given to sensory needs through soothing colour schemes, reduced noise levels, and thoughtfully selected fixtures and furnishings that minimise stress and overstimulation. Equally important is the environment created by our staff.

Every interaction is calm, playful and relationship-focused, with adults demonstrating genuine curiosity, empathy and unconditional acceptance of each child's feelings. This approach enables us to understand the reasons behind behaviour rather than simply responding to it, fostering secure attachments built on trust and dependence. As these relationships develop, children are supported to learn healthier ways of expressing themselves, replacing unhelpful behavioural responses with positive coping strategies. Clear boundaries and consistent routines are delivered through a therapeutic, relational approach, where discipline is viewed as an opportunity for learning and growth rather than punishment.

By providing predictable, safe and consistent experiences, we reduce uncertainty and help children interpret situations based on present realities rather than past trauma. Over time, this strengthens each child's window of tolerance, builds emotional resilience, encourages increasing independence, and equips them with the values, confidence and life skills needed to thrive both within The Sanctuary and beyond.

Behaviour Levels and Responses

Across the Trust, behaviour is assessed using five levels of intensity. Responses escalate proportionally while maintaining relational connection at all levels.

Level 1 – Minimal Risk

Low-level disruption, off-task behaviour, or minor verbal incidents within the classroom. These should be managed by the class teacher using the PACE approach and non-confrontational de-escalation. Learners are given the opportunity for a movement break – responding to their needs at the time.

Level 2 – Low Risk

Refusal of a reasonable request, leaving the classroom without permission, or persistent low-level disruption. PACE is used to facilitate curiosity about the function of the behaviour. The learner is supported by a key adult. A brief reflection period may be offered. Often a change of face or movement break is offered to the child.

Level 3 and 4 – Moderate to High Risk

Behaviours that escalate to crisis level and may compromise the physical or emotional safety of individuals or groups. PACE is used initially to contain the situation. The learner is supported through co-regulation before any discussion takes place. This is then escalated to Senior Staff within the Sanctuary. Learners may be given the opportunity to have some calm time in our calm room or outdoor space, dependent on the risk level of the behaviours. Details of behaviours will be shared with transparency with home at the end of the day.

Level 5 – Extreme Risk and Non-Negotiables

Whilst it is expected that the cohort of learners within The Sanctuary may present with severe, challenging behaviours – the information outlined below needs to be considered with the frequency and intensity of such Level 5 Behaviours.

This list of non-negotiable behaviours provides the limits of the Trust's capacity around a learner's presentation. As part of our trauma-informed practice, all efforts must be made to protect staff, students, and caregivers from traumatisation. It is essential that TANMAT protects all those within its community and cannot accept what could be considered deliberate acts of abuse or violence as tolerable.

These behaviours include the following:

- Repeated verbal abuse to learners, staff, and others
- Repeated emotional abuse of learners
- Repeated physical abuse/attack on learners, staff, and others
- Repeated inappropriate/sexual behaviour
- Repeated intentional damage to property including vandalism and computer hacking
- Repeated refusal to follow health and safety rules of the site, including fire regulations
- Repeated absconding

All level 5 behaviours, considered extreme and high risk, could be included dependent on how they present the same level of risk and danger to the school environment, staff, and learners. The consistent presentation of level 5 behaviours may escalate the tier of support needed for the inclusion of learners within TANMAT (see Appendix iv: Inclusion Continuum).

In these cases, steps must be taken to assess the viability of TANMAT as an acceptable educational provision for the learner. To assess this, the following steps will be taken:

- The initial action will be taken to protect the provision, its learners and staff. Dependent on a dynamic assessment of the event, this may result in a suspension if it has been considered to be a deliberate act of assault, abuse, bullying, or damage.
- Learners will undergo an in-depth review by the academy's senior leadership team examining past and current presentations. From this, the learner's presentation will be reclassified, highlighting factors at play, progress made, propensity for change, and remaining options left to explore.
- Meetings with caregivers and professionals will take place to explain the Trust's formulation of needs and review the Trust's capacity to contain the child's needs.
- An action plan will then be developed to encompass both the child's needs and Trust expectations, whilst providing transparency around expectations from the Trust, wider professionals, caregivers, and the learner. This will be monitored regularly to record the learner's progress.

Lack of progress in this plan will result in a review to discuss either redirection of focus and escalation of the tier of support on the inclusion continuum, or — if options have been exhausted — the Trust's ability to meet need. Persistent and unchanging presentation of non-negotiable behaviours may result in a permanent exclusion or a change of placement. See the Exclusion Policy for further detail.

For the following Level 5 behaviours, additional steps may be taken to support the wider school population.

Consequences

As a requirement of the Trust to protect its culture and environment for the safety of learners and staff, a range of consequences must be established. These are not to serve as a punishment but to act to maintain the Trust's capacity to uphold the PRRR framework whilst helping to establish cause-and-effect thinking with the learner population.

Depending on the driver behind the behaviour, logical consequences need to be applied. This is aimed at supporting the learner to develop cause-and-effect thinking, whilst reinforcing the Trust expectation. The application of consequences must be conducted in a way that the learner can clearly understand the link between the behaviour and the resulting action taken. Before any consequences can be applied, attempts must be made by staff to influence the behaviour using the relational approach.

The following is a list of consequences which may be applied:

- Requesting the learner leave the room for a discussion

- Undirected time to be allocated within the school day to discuss the behaviour/hold a restorative conversation
- Withdrawal from some activities due to heightened risk
- Withdrawal from using certain equipment
- Engaging in intervention activities
- Moving class/timetable
- Suspension
- Permanent exclusion

In the case of applying high-level consequences, a discussion will be made with the Head of School and the learner's parent/caregiver to provide open and honest expression of the difficulties being faced. It is never the case that a consequence is used as a punitive practice towards a learner, only to allow for discipline to be used as a learning experience. See the Exclusion Policy.

Specific Incident Protocols

The following details the Trust's response to specific categories of serious incident. For full detail, staff should refer to the linked policies and statutory guidance.

Assault

Any assaults will result initially in first aid being provided from within the Trust, with further medical assistance sourced if required. Support will be provided to all parties impacted and any injured party will be provided information, advice, and guidance regarding their legal rights in the situation. The event will be recorded on the incident form and logged on Arbor, with caregivers being informed of the full incident as soon as possible. A risk assessment will be put into place around the learner. In some cases, staff may need to inform or will require a police response, in line with National Police Chiefs Council advice.

Sexting

Any reported incidents of sexting will result in the parent/carer being contacted to inform them of the information received. The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) will be informed and a discussion with the CEOP school lead will take place. Depending on the nature of the content, a referral to the Police or Children's Social Care will be considered by the school's DSL and Head of School.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

TANMAT defines Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) using the language of the DfE (2021) guidance: "Sexual behaviour expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 that is developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child, young person or adult."

All incidents of HSB will be responded to using the principles of child protection. The Brook Traffic Light Tool may be used to assess age-appropriateness. Staff will consult the DSL and the Head of School in all instances. Decisions about police involvement, social care referrals, or risk assessments will follow DfE and NPCC protocols and be documented clearly.

A trauma-informed response will be prioritised for both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator, recognising HSB can be both a safeguarding and behaviour issue.

Sexualised Language

Any incidents of sexualised language will result in a parent/carer phone call to inform of the incident. Learners will be spoken to about the use of this type of language by the Sanctuary team. If further incidents of sexualised language occur, a parent/carer meeting is to be arranged by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Children who are subject to Children's Social Care involvement and have an allocated social worker will also be made aware of incidents in school where the Designated Safeguarding Lead feels this may be necessary.

Upskirting

Any incident of upskirting will result in parents/carers being informed and a meeting arranged to discuss the incident. This will result in this being logged with 101 as this is a criminal offence. A risk assessment will be put in place around the learners involved and a review of any use of technology (phones/cameras etc.) in school will be undertaken by the DSL and SLT. Learners may be subject to a suspension from school.

Sexualised Behaviour

Any incidents of sexualised behaviour will result in the parent/carer being contacted to inform them of the incident. Learners will be supported by the Sanctuary Team regarding sexualised behaviours. If further incidents of sexualised behaviour occur, a parent/carer meeting is to be arranged by SLT. The DSL will be informed and a referral to social care will be considered.

Sharing of Nude or Nearly Nude Images or Videos

Any incidents that are reported where a learner has shared or received nude or nearly nude/indecent images will be reported to the police via 101 and parents/carers will be contacted regarding the incident. A referral to Children's Social Care will be considered and any allocated social workers will be informed of such incidents.

Sexual Harassment

In cases of sexual harassment in school, parents/carers will be informed and a meeting will be arranged. Possible referral to Children's Social Care and a possible police referral depending on the incident. DSLs and SLT will liaise and communicate incidents with any external stakeholders involved with the learners. If the incident includes young people from another school or college, we will liaise with them to share information.

Sexual Violence

In cases of reported sexual violence, parents/carers and the Police will be contacted regarding the incident. DSLs will be informed, and a referral made to Children's Social Care. Learners may face a suspension and a possible change of provision depending on the incident. All incidents will be reported to the Trust Head of School for Safeguarding and Inclusion.

In ALL cases the victim of these incidents will be offered support by the Sanctuary Team and external support will be identified and sought where appropriate.

In ALL cases the perpetrator will be offered support by the Sanctuary Team and external support will be identified and sought where appropriate.

Bullying

Bullying is a complex behaviour influenced by numerous factors, including individual, social, and psychological dynamics. It is considered unacceptable within TANMAT and must be addressed quickly to prevent disturbance to the environment. An incident of bullying must be fully investigated as per the Anti-Bullying Policy.

Depending on the incident, the perpetrator may face a suspension.

In ALL cases the victim of these incidents will be offered support by the Sanctuary Team and external support will be identified and sought where appropriate.

In ALL cases the perpetrator will be offered support by the Sanctuary Team and external support based around their drivers and needs. This may include interventions around low self-esteem, lack of empathy, exposure to trauma or abuse, mental health issues, family and environmental factors, and social competence.

A risk assessment may be placed around the perpetrator to mitigate against future occurrences.

Vandalism

Intentional damage to property is not acceptable. The site will investigate to gather evidence and determine the extent of the student's involvement in the incident. This may involve reviewing security footage, interviewing witnesses, or obtaining statements from those involved.

Once a clear understanding of the situation is established, the student's parents or caregivers will be informed about the incident and the consequences that will be imposed. This may take place as either a call home or a face-to-face meeting.

Appropriate consequences for the student's actions will be applied, including interventions and strategies to address the underlying issues, improve behaviour, and prevent future incidents. The severity of the consequences will depend on factors such as the extent of the damage caused, any prior disciplinary history, and assessment of the student's drivers, needs, and abilities. For continual vandalism to school property, the behaviour will be classed as non-negotiable and formal action taken.

Actions will be taken to monitor areas prone to vandalism, such as restrooms, hallways, or communal areas during high-risk times.

Theft

In the case of theft, a thorough investigation will be undertaken to gather evidence and establish the student's involvement. This may involve reviewing surveillance footage, interviewing witnesses, or obtaining statements from those involved.

Once a clear understanding of the situation is established, the student's parents or caregivers will be informed about the incident and the consequences that will be imposed. This may take place as either a call home or a face-to-face meeting. Police involvement will be considered.

Appropriate consequences for the student's actions will be applied, including interventions and strategies to address the underlying issues, improve behaviour, and prevent future incidents. The severity of the consequences will depend on factors such as the extent of the theft, any prior disciplinary history, and assessment of the student's drivers, needs, and abilities. For theft which creates a health and safety issue or involves a high-value item, a suspension or permanent exclusion may be applied.

Violent Behaviour

The Trust understands aggression and violence may be an expression of need but does not condone any violent behaviour within its academies.

Firstly, the safety of all individuals must be maintained by immediately intervening to stop the violent behaviour. Staff members have a duty of care to step in to contain violent incidents. This must be recorded as part of the RPI (restrictive physical intervention) process.

First aid must be given to any injured party, with medical services involvement if considered necessary.

The incident must be documented using the academy's Arbor system, including any injuries or damages, and statements gathered from witnesses or those involved.

Steps must be taken to protect the environment, which may involve a suspension or permanent exclusion.

An investigation to determine the root causes and circumstances leading to the violent behaviour will be undertaken, encompassing interviews with witnesses, reviewing any available video footage, and collecting relevant information to gain a comprehensive understanding of the incident.

An assessment will then be made as to whether restorative action and reparation can be made, including whether the academy can meet need and the safety implications of the learner accessing the school environment. Appropriate consequences for the student's actions will be applied, including interventions and strategies to address the underlying issues, improve behaviour, and prevent future incidents.

In some cases, staff may need to inform or will require a police response. See National Police Chiefs Council advice: [When to Call the Police — Guidance for Schools and Colleges](https://www.npcc.police.uk) ([npcc.police.uk](https://www.npcc.police.uk)).

Disregarding Staff Instructions

A child refusing a reasonable request from staff in school can result in a breakdown in school expectation.

When dealing with students refusing a reasonable request, the reason for this behaviour must be identified without bias. PACE should be used to aid students in the expression of their perception, with wider factors considered in determining the function of the behaviour. From this, interventions can be taken to support the underlying needs and drivers to remove defensive barriers to following reasonable requests.

However, action must be taken to reinforce the importance of following reasonable staff instructions, including communication with parents and caregivers. Consistent and repetitive refusal of reasonable requests with little sign of compliance will be classed as non-negotiable.

Behaviour out of School

A learner's conduct outside of education can impact on the environment inside school. Although staff may be permitted to apply consequences towards learners in certain circumstances due to actions occurring outside of school, staff should always strive to act on the underlying drivers behind the behaviour.

Assessment of the action outside of school will be undertaken and resulting actions will be taken to ensure the safety of staff, learners, and the environment. Each situation requires careful consideration from the Head of School regarding the action to be taken.

Behaviour Online

TANMAT holds the same expectations and rights for online behaviour as for in-person behaviour. Learners not following expectations online will follow the same functional behavioural assessment process as for physically presenting behaviour. Online incidents off school premises and outside of school time are in the realm of parental/carer responsibility but may be supported from within TANMAT.

Remote Learning Behaviour Expectations

All staff will reinforce positive behaviour during remote learning sessions, with the same expectations and rights as face-to-face lessons. Learners not following expectations during remote learning will follow the same functional behavioural assessment process as for physically presenting behaviour.

Absconding

Many learners manage their frustrations and anger via the flight mechanism and flee the source of their negative stress. If any learner leaves the school site without permission, it is the responsibility of the supervising member of staff to ensure that appropriate action has been taken. The Sanctuary team and Head of School must be informed immediately. Caregivers will be contacted by phone. The police will be called for learners deemed to be at serious risk to themselves or others. The DSL must also be informed of all absconding incidents.

Screening, Searching and Confiscation

To ensure the safety of all staff and learners, the following items are strictly prohibited in school:

- Knives
- Weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco
- Fireworks
- Pornography
- Mobile phones (where contrary to school policy)

- Vapes
- E-scooters
- Or any article that a member of staff suspects has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence or to cause personal injury or damage the property of any person

Under the school's statutory power to make rules on learner behaviour and the duty to manage the safety of staff, learners, and visitors, the school imposes a requirement that learners undergo screening. All members of staff have the authority to screen learners. The screening of learners by a walk-through or handheld metal detector without their consent is permitted, even if it is not suspected that they are in possession of a weapon.

If a learner refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to allow that learner on the premises. Refusal to be screened will result in the learner's absence being treated as unauthorised. For further guidance see Searching, Screening and Confiscation (DfE, 2022).

Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI) and Statutory Recording

TANMAT applies the use of RPI as a last resort in line with the Trust's Positive Handling Policy and the statutory guidance Restrictive Interventions, Including Use of Reasonable Force, in Schools (DfE, April 2026). After each incident of any RPI, restorative work must be undertaken between the learners and staff members involved to facilitate relational repair.

Statutory Recording and Reporting

TANMAT is subject to statutory duties under section 93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as supported by the Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025, effective from April 2026. Following any incident involving the use of a restrictive intervention, caregivers must be informed as soon as possible and usually within the same day, preferably by phone.

A full written record must be completed promptly. This must include, as a minimum: the names of the learner and staff directly involved; relevant needs and circumstances of the learner including SEND status; the time, date, location, and approximate duration; a brief account of the incident including triggers, de-escalation strategies used, type and degree of force applied, and any physical injuries sustained; a brief account of why use of force was assessed as necessary; and any post-incident support provided.

Seclusion and Isolation

The use of seclusion (forced alone time in a locked or contained room) is prohibited. Where time-out or reflection time is used, it must be voluntary, time-limited, monitored, and followed by a supportive debrief. The Board of Trustees is required to make data on all restrictive interventions available to Ofsted during inspection. Trust Inclusion and Safeguarding leads will review this data termly, monitoring for disproportionality in relation to SEND and other protected characteristics.

Caregiver Partnership

Working closely with all parents/caregivers is essential to provide a collective approach to influencing behaviour and reinforcing the approaches used in school. TANMAT encourages and actively facilitates collaborative working with parents/caregivers.

- Parents/caregivers are encouraged to discuss with relevant staff the level of telephone contact that would best suit their needs in monitoring the progress of their child.
- Class-based staff are expected to contact parents/carers at a minimum on a weekly basis.
- Parents/caregivers will be informed as soon as possible in the case of any significant achievement and/or deterioration in their child's behaviour.
- Home visits/online interactions will be arranged for those parents/carers who for reasons of transport, accessibility, and cultural exclusion cannot attend school.
- All efforts are made to ensure that communication, whether in the spoken or written word, addresses cultural and social barriers, and is conducted with kindness and empathy.
- Academic reports will be provided for parents/caregivers on a termly basis.
- Parent/caregiver support will be continually provided by TANMAT via its website and staff.
- Parent/carer support group will run monthly at The Sanctuary.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for monitoring this behaviour policy's effectiveness and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation. The Board will review data on restrictive interventions termly and monitor for disproportionality across SEND and other protected characteristics.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for: reviewing and approving this policy; ensuring that the school environment encourages positive behaviour; ensuring that staff deal effectively with distressed behaviour; monitoring how staff implement this policy to ensure actions and consequences are applied consistently; ensuring that all staff understand the behavioural expectations and the importance of maintaining them; providing new staff with a clear induction into the school's relational culture; offering appropriate training in behaviour management and the impact of SEND and mental health needs on behaviour; ensuring this policy works alongside the safeguarding policy; and ensuring that behaviour data is regularly reviewed for equity and disproportionality.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Creating a calm and safe environment for learners
- Establishing and maintaining clear boundaries of acceptable learner behaviour
- Implementing the behaviour policy consistently
- Communicating the school's expectations, routines, values, and standards through teaching behaviour and in every interaction with learners
- Modelling expected behaviour and positive relationships
- Providing a personalised approach to the specific behavioural needs of particular learners
- Considering the impact of their own behaviour on the school culture and how they can uphold school rules and expectations

- Recording behaviour incidents promptly
- Challenging learners to meet the school's expectations in a relational, non-shaming way

Learner Transition

Inducting Incoming Learners

The school will support incoming learners to meet positive relationship expectations by offering an induction process to familiarise them with the PRRR framework and the wider school culture.

Preparing Outgoing Learners for Transition

To ensure behaviour support is continuous, information relating to learner behaviour and needs may be transferred to relevant staff at the start of the term or year, or to receiving provisions at the appropriate point.

Training

As part of their induction, all staff receive training on:

- The PRRR framework and trauma-informed relational practice
- The proper and lawful use of restrictive physical intervention
- The needs of the specific learner cohort at each academy
- How SEND and mental health needs can influence behaviour
- The functional behavioural assessment process
- Restorative approaches and relational repair

Behaviour management and relational practice will also form part of ongoing continuing professional development.

Monitoring and Equity

The Trust is committed to reviewing all behaviour-related decisions through an equity lens. Behaviour, exclusion, and intervention data will be regularly analysed for disproportionality based on: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); race and ethnicity; gender; Looked After Child (LAC) status; and Free School Meals (FSM)/Pupil Premium status.

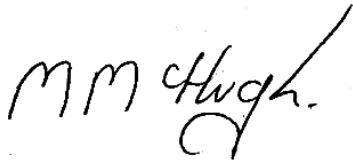
This data will inform training, policy decisions, and intervention planning. Any patterns indicating systemic inequality will be addressed through targeted staff CPD and adjustments to school systems. Learner voice will be gathered termly to inform the approach.

Complaints

It is not uncommon for learners to make allegations of inappropriate and/or excessive use of force following an incident. The school has a formal Complaints Procedure. Learners should

be reminded of the procedure and encouraged to use the appropriate channels. Learners should be given the opportunity during the debriefing process to voice any concerns and hear a first-hand explanation of adult actions. The complaints policy applies equally to staff. We are an open school and promote transparency in both policy and practice. Any staff concerns regarding the welfare of learners should be immediately reported to the Designated Person for Safeguarding.

Signed on behalf of the Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mm Hugh', written over a horizontal line.

Michael McHugh (Chairperson of the Board)

Date: July 2026

Appendix: Signpost to Wider Theoretical Frameworks

This appendix provides a brief signpost to the key theoretical frameworks that underpin the Positive Relationship Policy. These are not summarised in full here; rather, readers are directed to the recommended texts and resources for deeper engagement. Schools and practitioners are encouraged to use these frameworks as a shared theoretical language across staff teams.

Polyvagal Theory — Stephen Porges

Polyvagal Theory describes how the autonomic nervous system governs social engagement, defensive responses, and physiological states. It provides the neurobiological basis for understanding why regulation must precede relationship and reasoning. When learners are in a 'dorsal vagal' or 'sympathetic' state, the capacity for connection and learning is significantly reduced. The PRRR framework's emphasis on Protect and Regulate draws directly from this theory.

Key text: Porges, S. W. (2011). The Polyvagal Theory: Neurophysiological Foundations of Emotions, Attachment, Communication, and Self-Regulation. W. W. Norton.

The Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) — Bruce Perry

The NME draws on developmental neuroscience to explain how adverse childhood experiences disrupt the sequential development of the brain. Behaviour is understood through the lens of which brain region is driving it: brain stem (primal/survival), limbic (relational/emotional), or cortical (reflective/identity). This model informs the three-level behavioural framework and the ten driver categories described in this policy.

Key text: Perry, B. D., & Szalavitz, M. (2006). The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog. Basic Books. See also: Perry, B. D. (2009). Examining child maltreatment through a neurodevelopmental lens. Journal of Loss and Trauma, 14(4), 240–255.

PACE — Dan Hughes

PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) is an attachment-informed relational stance developed by Dan Hughes within Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP). It describes the quality of adult presence that enables children who have experienced relational trauma to feel safe enough to engage. PACE is not a technique but an attitude that permeates all adult-learner interactions within the PRRR framework, particularly at the Relate stage.

Key text: Hughes, D. A. (2009). Attachment-Focused Parenting. W. W. Norton. Hughes, D. A., & Baylin, J. (2012). Brain-Based Parenting. W. W. Norton.

Attachment Theory — John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth

Attachment theory provides the foundational understanding of how early relational experiences shape internal working models — the templates through which children anticipate and interpret relationships. Many learners in SEMH settings present with insecure, disorganised, or disrupted attachment patterns that manifest as approach-avoidance behaviour, hyper-vigilance, or aggression towards trusted adults. An understanding of attachment is essential for interpreting the relational drivers of behaviour.

Key text: Bowlby, J. (1988). A Secure Base: Parent-Child Attachment and Healthy Human Development. Basic Books. Geddes, H. (2006). Attachment in the Classroom. Worth Publishing.

The Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment and Adaptation (DMM) — Patricia Crittenden

The DMM extends classical attachment theory by framing all attachment patterns — including those previously labelled disorganised — as adaptive and self-protective strategies developed in response to threat. This reframe is particularly relevant in SEMH settings, where learners' most challenging presentations can be understood as sophisticated survival strategies rather than wilful defiance. The DMM informs the driver-based approach to functional behavioural assessment in this policy.

Key text: Crittenden, P. M. (2008). Raising Parents: Attachment, Parenting and Child Safety. Willan Publishing.

Window of Tolerance — Daniel Siegel

The window of tolerance describes the zone of physiological and emotional arousal within which a person can function effectively — engaging, learning, and relating without being overwhelmed or shut down. Behaviour outside this window — whether hyperaroused (fight/flight) or hypoaroused (freeze/flop) — signals that co-regulation support is needed. This concept underpins the Regulate stage of the PRRR framework and guides how staff respond to dysregulated learners.

Key text: Siegel, D. J. (1999). The Developing Mind: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are. Guilford Press. Siegel, D. J. (2010). Mindsight. Bantam Books.

Trauma-Informed Practice — Karen Treisman

Treisman's work integrates attachment, neuroscience, and narrative approaches to provide an accessible, strengths-based framework for trauma-informed practice in schools and care settings. Her concept of the 'story body' and the importance of safety, relationship, and meaning-making map directly onto the PRRR framework. Her work also extends trauma-informed practice to staff wellbeing and the risk of vicarious trauma, which is embedded in the Trust's approach to staff support.

Key text: Treisman, K. (2017). Working with Relational and Developmental Trauma in Children and Adolescents. Routledge. Treisman, K. (2021). A Treasure Box for Creating Trauma-Informed Organizations. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Schema Therapy and Core Beliefs — Jeffrey Young

Schema therapy describes how early maladaptive schemas — deeply held core beliefs about self, others, and the world — develop in response to unmet emotional needs in childhood. These schemas drive the identity-level behaviours described in this policy at the neocortical level. Understanding a learner's schema profile helps practitioners go beyond surface behaviour to the underlying belief driving it, informing mentoring, life story work, and longer-term relational intervention.

Key text: Young, J. E., Klosko, J. S., & Weishaar, M. E. (2003). Schema Therapy: A Practitioner's Guide. Guilford Press.

The Power Threat Meaning Framework — Lucy Johnstone and Mary Boyle

The Power Threat Meaning Framework (PTMF) is a non-diagnostic alternative to psychiatric classification that asks: What has happened to you? What threats did that pose? What did you do to survive? and What does this mean about you, others, and the world? It provides a language for understanding distress and behaviour without pathologising learners, and supports the functional assessment approach taken in this policy. The PTMF is particularly valuable when working with learners whose presentations are complex, and where traditional diagnostic frameworks may be insufficient or harmful.

Key text: Johnstone, L., & Boyle, M. (2018). The Power Threat Meaning Framework. British Psychological Society.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) — Felitti, Anda and colleagues

The original ACE study (Felitti et al., 1998) established a robust evidence base linking adverse childhood experiences — including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction — to long-term physical, psychological, and social outcomes. This evidence base provides the rationale for trauma-informed practice in education. Understanding ACEs helps staff contextualise behaviour without blame, and supports the case for preventative and relational approaches over punitive ones.

Key text: Felitti, V. J., et al. (1998). Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 14(4), 245–258. See also: Hughes, K., et al. (2017). The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet Public Health, 2(8), e356–e366.

Restorative Practice — Ted Wachtel and the International Institute for Restorative Practices

Restorative practice provides a structured relational approach to repairing harm, rebuilding trust, and re-establishing community following incidents. It moves beyond consequence-focused responses to ask: who has been affected, what do they need, and how can harm be repaired? The restorative conversation is the primary tool of the Reflect stage of the PRRR framework. Schools implementing restorative practice fully often see reductions in exclusions and improvements in relational climate.

Key text: Wachtel, T. (2013). Dreaming of a New Reality: How Restorative Practices Reduce Crime and Violence, Improve Relationships and Strengthen Civil Society. The Piper's Press. Hopkins, B. (2004). Just Schools. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Further reading and CPD resources relating to all of the above frameworks are available through the Trust's professional development programme and via Black Sheep Education (blacksheepeducation.co.uk).