

TRINITY ACADEMY NEWCASTLE TRUST

**Positive Relationship Policy (Behaviour Policy)
Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper site**

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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

Trinity Academy Newcastle is a specialist SEMH provision for learners aged 12-16 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The academy serves a regional cohort of learners who may have experienced adversity, disrupted education, and complex social, emotional, and mental health needs. As a result, the academy places strong emphasis on relational practice, predictability, and emotional safety. Provision is designed to meet individual needs through a combination of structured learning environments, pastoral and therapeutic support, regulation spaces, and enrichment opportunities. The inclusion of Forest School and farm-based learning supports a holistic approach, enabling learners to build resilience, confidence, and positive relationships alongside academic progress.

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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, these aims are underpinned by the consistent application of the Trust values of Calm, Kind, and Honest. The academy's ethos centres on creating a safe and predictable environment where learners can develop the skills needed to regulate their behaviour, build meaningful relationships, and re-engage with learning. Our vision is to ensure that all learners are supported to achieve both academically and socially, preparing them for successful transition beyond the academy.

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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

In addition, Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site aims to provide a highly personalised curriculum that integrates academic learning with social, emotional, and behavioural development. Enrichment opportunities, including outdoor learning and practical experiences such as Forest School and farm provision, are used to support engagement and wellbeing. Therapeutic and pastoral approaches are embedded throughout the school to ensure that learners' individual needs are met and that barriers to learning are reduced. The academy also works closely with families and external professionals to ensure a consistent and holistic approach to each learner's development.

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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

Within Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, learners are additionally expected to use regulation spaces appropriately with staff guidance, engage positively in enrichment activities including Forest School and farm provision, and follow expectations within specialist environments where safety is critical. Learners are encouraged to use agreed strategies to seek support when they are feeling dysregulated and to participate in the relational culture of the school by interacting with adults and peers in a calm, kind, and honest manner.

Expectations also extend to behaviour in shared spaces, transitions, and practical learning environments, where learners are supported to develop independence and responsibility.

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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, all members of the community have the right to access a specialist SEMH provision that understands and responds to individual need. Learners have the right to be supported through a trauma-informed, relational approach at all times, to access safe spaces for regulation, and to build relationships with trusted adults. The academy is committed to ensuring that learners feel a strong sense of belonging and are actively involved in decisions about their learning through appropriate learner voice opportunities. Safeguarding and emotional wellbeing remain central to all rights within the school community.

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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, the PRRR framework is embedded consistently across all areas of practice. Regulation is supported through access to designated calm and regulation spaces, including The Bungalow. Staff utilise a range of co-regulation strategies, including sensory approaches and structured routines, to support learners in returning to a regulated state. The Zones of Regulation framework is used to support learners in identifying and managing their emotional states. Relationships are strengthened through consistent use of the PACE approach, ensuring that all interactions remain empathetic, curious, and supportive. Reflection is facilitated through restorative conversations and structured dialogue, allowing learners to understand their behaviour and develop strategies for future success.

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. At least three reminders incorporating PACE should be given before pastoral is involved. Once regulated, the learner returns to class and a fresh start is offered.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, Level 1 behaviours are managed through the consistent use of PACE-based language and relational de-escalation strategies. Staff use curiosity-led prompts such as “I wonder what’s making this tricky right now?” alongside clear and calm reminders. Learners may be offered movement breaks, sensory support, or brief opportunities to regulate within the classroom. Staff ensure that correction is non-shaming and supportive, enabling learners to remain engaged and return quickly to learning. Corridor and threshold practice also supports early identification of dysregulation and prevents escalation.

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 or pastoral colleague. A brief reflection period may be offered. Transparency is maintained with home. Lack of progress will trigger a formal Functional Behavioural Assessment (FBA).

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Level 2, learners are supported by a key adult or a member of the pastoral team. They may access a designated regulation or reflection space where they can be supported to co-regulate and discuss their behaviour. A short restorative conversation will take place once the learner is ready. Parents and carers are informed through phone contact or Arbor communication where appropriate. If behaviours persist, patterns will be monitored and may trigger a Functional Behavioural Assessment (FBA) to identify underlying drivers and inform targeted support.

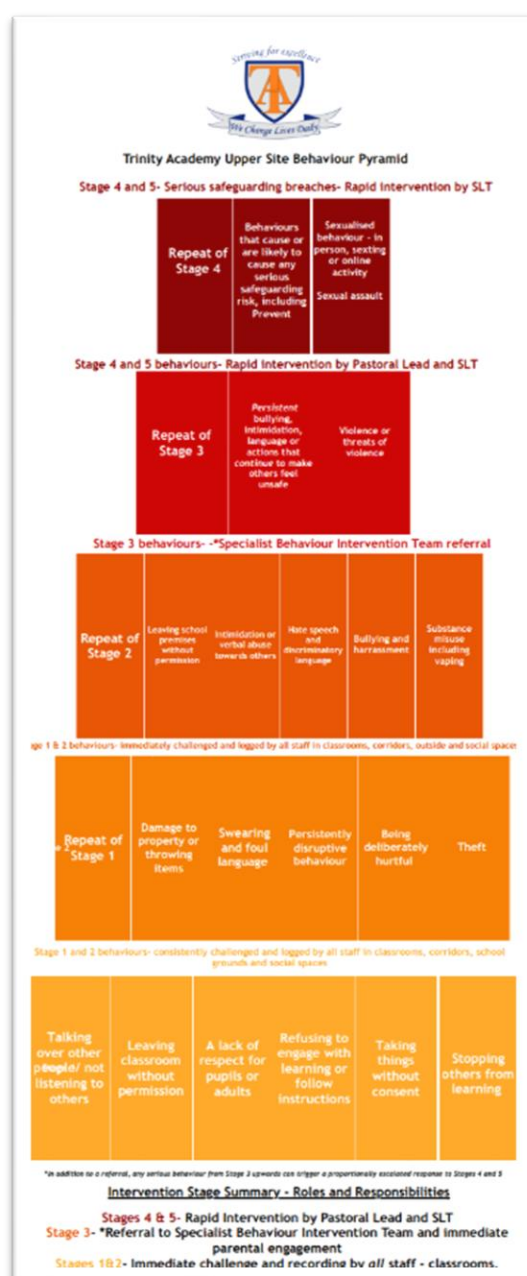
Level 3 and 4 – Moderate to High Risk

Behaviours that escalate to crisis level and may compromise the physical or emotional safety of individuals or groups. Pastoral colleagues are called immediately. PACE is used initially to contain the situation. The learner is supported through co-regulation before any discussion takes place. A formal FBA will follow recurring events. For persistent presentation without

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Levels 3 and 4, the academy operates a structured escalation system aligned with its Behaviour Pyramid. Pastoral or on-call staff respond immediately, and learners are supported within a safe regulation space or Sanctuary provision if required. At Stage 3 of the Behaviour Pyramid, learners may enter a specialist behavioural intervention pathway. This includes targeted support for issues such as repeated disruption, homophobic or discriminatory language, and suspected bullying. A trained pastoral team member facilitates a dialogic intervention space, supporting the learner to explore the drivers behind their behaviour and engage in restorative dialogue. Parents and carers are always informed at this stage to ensure awareness and alignment between home and school. Persistent behaviours at this level will lead to a formal Functional Behavioural Assessment and review by senior staff.

The Trinity Academy Behaviour Pyramid:



Level 5 – Extreme Risk and Non-Negotiables

These behaviours are harmful and cannot be accommodated due to the Trust's duty to protect staff, learners, and its environment. They include:

Non-Negotiables

These are a set of behaviours which cannot be negotiated due to the Trust's need to protect staff, learners, and its environment.

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 traumatising. 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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle, additional non-negotiable behaviours include unsafe conduct within Forest School or farm environments, misuse of tools or specialist equipment, and behaviours that compromise safety during outdoor or off-site provision. These contexts require strict adherence to safety expectations, and any breach that places individuals at risk will be treated as a high-level concern.

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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

Following Level 5 incidents, the review process will be led by the Head of School, supported by the SENCO, DSL, and pastoral leadership team. A formal review meeting will take place within an agreed timeframe, typically within five school days. A detailed action plan will be developed based on Functional Behavioural Assessment outcomes and may involve external professionals. Progress will be monitored through regular review meetings, and the Trust central team may provide additional oversight where required.

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 classroom for a discussion or pastoral help
- 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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, consequences are aligned with the Behaviour Pyramid and are applied in a graduated and relational manner. Additional responses may

include blended alternative provision placements or internal support spaces, temporary timetable adaptations, targeted intervention programmes, and increased key worker support. All consequences are designed to support learning, reinforce expectations, and maintain the safety and integrity of the school environment.

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 pastoral 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 Pastoral 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 Pastoral Team and external support will be identified and sought where appropriate.

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

In ALL cases the perpetrator will be offered support by the Pastoral 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* (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 pastoral lead 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.

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, strong caregiver partnerships are essential. Each learner has a key pastoral contact, and communication is maintained regularly through phone calls, Arbor, and face-to-face meetings. Weekly contact is expected, with additional communication following significant incidents or achievements. The academy facilitates parent engagement through meetings, workshops, and informal opportunities such as coffee mornings. Home visits and flexible communication methods are used to overcome barriers to engagement, ensuring all families can participate fully in supporting their child's development.

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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

Staff at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site are expected to act as key relational adults for learners, building consistent and trusting relationships. All staff consistently challenge swearing and inappropriate behaviour using the PACE model, which has led to a significant reduction in inappropriate language and increased learner self-correction. Staff are responsible for recording behaviour accurately on Arbor, engaging in reflective practice, and contributing to multi-agency meetings where required. Staff also actively participate in corridor and threshold practice, supporting a positive and regulated school culture.

Pupil Language Matters Strategy at Trinity:



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

Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

Staff at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site receive accredited training in restrictive physical intervention (such as Team Teach or equivalent), alongside ongoing professional development in trauma-informed practice, SEMH needs, PACE, and attachment-informed approaches. Training also includes the use of the Zones of Regulation, sensory strategies, and restorative practice. Continuous professional development ensures staff remain equipped to meet the complex needs of the learner cohort. Enhancements to the CPD programme include training on Belonging, Corridor Culture, Challenging Inappropriate Language and Bullying.

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.

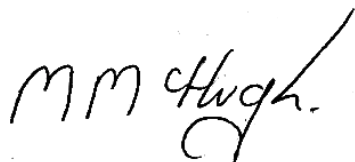
Practice at Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site:

At Trinity Academy Newcastle – Upper Site, behaviour and intervention data is recorded and analysed using Arbor. Data is reviewed regularly by senior leaders, typically on a weekly and termly basis, and is shared with governors and the Trust as appropriate. Analysis focuses on identifying patterns, including disproportionality across different groups. Outcomes from data analysis inform targeted interventions, staff training, and strategic planning. Learner voice is gathered through pastoral sessions and structured feedback opportunities to ensure the approach remains responsive and inclusive. The newly formed student council are key to this work.

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 'M McHugh', is 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).