



Bentham C P School
Low Bentham Road
Bentham
Lancaster
LA2 7BP

Headteacher : Mr R D Wright
Telephone: 015242 61412
admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
www.benthamcpschool.org.uk

18th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read our updated Positive Behaviour Policy.

As a school, we remain firmly committed to providing an inclusive environment where all children are valued, supported and given every opportunity to succeed. We recognise that children may experience difficulties which affect behaviour and we remain committed to understanding need, making reasonable adjustments and working closely with families to achieve positive outcomes.

At the same time, it is important to remember that every member of our school community has the right to feel safe, respected and able to learn without disruption. Our approach therefore seeks to balance support and inclusion with clear expectations, personal responsibility and appropriate consequences when behaviour falls below expectations.

The Department for Education's most recent behaviour and exclusion guidance which comes into effect in July 2026, continues to emphasise the importance of maintaining calm, safe and purposeful learning environments for all pupils and staff. Whilst suspension and exclusion remain measures of last resort, schools also have a responsibility to act where behaviour significantly affects the welfare, safety or education of others.

We therefore ask all families to support the school's expectations around respect, kindness, responsibility and cooperation with adults. By working together, we can ensure that Bentham Community Primary School remains a safe, inclusive and positive environment in which all children can flourish.

Please find below an Interim Addendum following publication of updated DfE Behaviour and Suspension Guidance which I would like all parents to take note.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Richard Wright
Headteacher



A nurturing family, learning together

Appendix G: Balancing Inclusion, Safety and the Rights of the Wider School Community

Bentham Community Primary School remains fully committed to being an inclusive school where all pupils are valued, supported and given every opportunity to succeed.

The school recognises that behaviour may be influenced by a range of factors, including special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH), adverse childhood experiences, communication difficulties and other vulnerabilities. The school will continue to make reasonable adjustments, provide appropriate support and work closely with families and external agencies wherever possible.

However, inclusion does not remove the need for clear expectations, personal responsibility or appropriate consequences where behaviour places others at risk or significantly impacts upon the wellbeing, safety or education of the wider school community.

In accordance with current Department for Education guidance, the school will carefully balance:

- the needs and vulnerabilities of individual pupils;
- the effectiveness of support and reasonable adjustments already implemented;
- the welfare, safety and educational entitlement of other pupils;
- the welfare, wellbeing and professional safety of staff;
- the efficient and orderly operation of the school.

When determining appropriate responses to serious or persistent behaviour concerns, the school will consider not only the behaviour itself but also its cumulative impact on:

- the physical and emotional wellbeing of pupils;
- feelings of safety and belonging;
- attendance and engagement in learning;
- staff wellbeing and workload;
- teaching, learning and curriculum delivery;
- safeguarding arrangements;
- the wider school community.

The school recognises that all pupils, staff, parents and visitors have the right to feel safe, respected and able to participate in school life without fear of intimidation, harassment, abuse or disruption.



A nurturing family, learning together

Whilst suspension and permanent exclusion remain measures of last resort, the school will not adopt an approach whereby repeated serious breaches of the behaviour policy are overlooked solely because a pupil presents with identified additional needs.

Where extensive support, intervention, reasonable adjustments and external agency involvement have been implemented, and behaviour continues to significantly impact upon the welfare, safety or education of others, the school may consider suspension or permanent exclusion in accordance with statutory guidance.

Examples of behaviour which may lead to consideration of suspension or permanent exclusion include, but are not limited to:

- racist, discriminatory or prejudicial language;
- bullying, intimidation or harassment;
- verbal abuse directed towards pupils or staff;
- threatening behaviour;
- physical aggression;
- persistent disruptive behaviour;
- behaviour which creates an unsafe environment for others;
- repeated refusal to follow reasonable instructions from staff.

In making such decisions, the Headteacher and Governing Body will ensure that decisions are lawful, reasonable, proportionate and evidence-based, taking account of individual circumstances and the support already provided.

The school remains committed to supporting all pupils to succeed. However, this commitment must be balanced with the school's duty to protect the welfare, dignity, safety and learning of all members of the school community.

Updated by Richard Wright

Headteacher

June 2026



A nurturing family, learning together