



JHU/THO

6th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Teacher Tapp carried out a national survey with over 11 000 teachers in November 2024 about behaviour. We recognise at Colton Hills Community School that good behaviour enables students to learn and flourish, however the national survey was quite shocking about behaviour in schools across the country. 76% of teachers nationally said that behaviour had interrupted teaching and learning. The top behaviour issues discovered in the national report were students arriving late, slow to start work, slow to stop talking and calling out.

Local Authority Review of school provision

On 30th January 2025 I invited the local authority in to do a comprehensive review of behaviour as part of our ongoing school improvement. I'm delighted to be able to share **some of the highlights** of the report:

- Leaders in school are committed to promoting positive behaviour and attitudes in school through identified policies, systems and procedures.
- There is a wealth of information and intelligence available to ensure pupils' needs can be well met.
- **The vast majority of pupils behave appropriately.**
- Relationships are positive and the promotion of high standards is evident.
- Pupils are perceptive and can state very clearly how the behaviour approach in school is received and how this affects their learning, motivation and aspiration.
- **Overall pupils at Colton Hills feel safe and happy.** They know the behaviour policy and can talk with confidence about expectations, including sanctions and rewards.
- Younger pupils talk about the PRIDE values in school with a level of confidence and report that staff refer to these too as part of teaching, learning and to secure positive behaviour. Older pupils recognise the many changes seen in recent years.
- Pupils feel that staff are positive and work hard to support them with behaviour concerns and emotional wellbeing.
- Personal Development now has a higher status in school as a result of conscious changes to how it is taught and when through a clear teaching pathway.
- Leaders are investing in training and resources for leaders and staff so that provision is of the highest quality.
- Special educational needs have been considered resulting in adaptations to ensure better inclusion.
- Leaders in school have a clear intent for the management of behaviours and attitudes in school. This is delivered through **an ambitious and passionate pastoral team** who have clear roles and responsibilities. Systems are in place to capture comprehensive



information about pupils ranging from key vulnerabilities, risks and information to bring about improvements.

- Safeguarding and pastoral staff are effective because they are well trained. **Staff have high aspirations** for the most vulnerable pupils in the school and they support them to overcome challenges. Pupils often rise to these and have a mutual respectful relationship with the safeguarding and pastoral teams.

Things that were suggested *that school could consider doing to further improve* behaviour included:

- Have a behaviour reset, which we did on the first day of this term. We will continue to reset expectations throughout the year as we strive for excellence.
- Ensure the behaviour policy and systems in place are known and understood by all. This is done through regular tutor activities for children and during Monday morning staff briefings, however we will be simplifying our behaviour policy once it has been ratified by governors in April so that it is more easily understood and more consistently applied.
- Ensure that **PRIDE values** are woven into all aspects of the school's work, without apology, so that expectations are embedded. This is something we will continue to do.
- As new requirements are implemented, leaders should undertake regular monitoring, evaluation and review to ensure the school's full offer is meeting expectations. We are already making changes to our monitoring and evaluation cycles for the summer term.
- Continue to develop provision as planned e.g. the Hills Project as part of promoting and delivering inclusive practice. As you will be aware the building works have already start on The Hills with June soft launch being our goal as an inclusive offer.
- Considerations should be given to the staff duty rota. We have doubled the number of staff on duty at break time this academic year and are now looking into the best options for lunch time supervision to enable pastoral colleagues to be available when their year team are back in lessons, therefore ensuring pastoral capacity during all lesson times.
- Consider stripping the behaviour policy right **back to basics**. The new behaviour policy will be shared with parents and carers once the full governing body have ratified it in the April meeting.

Parent and carer voice

As you are aware *the next forum will be on 3rd April at 5pm* on the topic "A respectful school: Our school behaviour for learning provision." Governors on 29th April will be ratifying the 2025/26 Behaviour Policy and we really would like to present our proposals on 3rd April to gain some parent and carer feedback to share at the full governing board meeting so if you are able to attend please come to the student reception by 5pm where Mr Winward and I will then have a quick presentation and ask for your feedback.

We are aware that it is difficult for many parents and carers to get into school for several events in an academic year due to other commitments. To gain your feedback we would like to ask you to complete this **quick 5-minute survey** [LINK TO SURVEY](#) by 21st March at 09:00. We have left a blank space so that you can also free type to enable us to have more information if you wish to add more. We have already done a snap behaviour survey with staff before Christmas benchmarking their responses to national data and your voice is also needed. Our



PRIDE values talk about participation and we would love for a parent governor position to be filled that has been vacant since this time last year. If you would like to be part of the school's continued improvement journey and participate more do contact Mrs Hollingsworth by email thollingsworth@coltonhills.co.uk for us to support an application for this critical volunteer post.

Thank you for reading this letter about the national issues schools are facing regarding children's behaviour. I hope that reading extracts from the external review carried out by the local authority has provided clarity on our continued journey towards excellence. Behaviour is everyone's responsibility and we value your input that you have with the many conversations you have at home about rewards and sanctions. School, parents and carers along with students builds our community ethos and I will share the outcome of the survey results with you all at a later stage in the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J Hunter
Headteacher

