

## Governors' Statement on Behaviour and Discipline

This statement was drawn up by the Governing Body of the school following consultation with parents, pupils and staff. It signifies the importance that governors place on good behaviour being part of what makes a good school. It also stresses that the catholic values of the school are distinct from some of the commercial values which dominate current society. This is reflected in the school's mission.

### School Mission Statement

*Our Lady's Catholic College exists to help all pupils to discover their physical, intellectual, social, moral, cultural and spiritual talents, to recognise them thankfully as God's gifts and to develop them to their full potential.*

*The school seeks to prepare pupils, through the experience of being part of a safe, caring Christian community in school, to take their place in later life as committed members of the church and caring members of society.*

The purpose of this statement is to give guidance to the head in framing the school's behaviour and discipline policies by stating the principles which governors expect to be followed.

The governors expect any policy or actions to be in accordance with their responsibilities under equality legislation. Namely that sanctions will be fair, just and equitable, balancing the needs of the individual with the needs of the common good.

These sanctions are intended to:

- demonstrate that misbehaviour is not acceptable
- express the disapproval of the school community
- deter other pupils from similar behaviour
- allow the individual to learn from his or her mistakes and improve future behaviour.

For this purpose, governors delegate the discharge of discipline to the Headteacher and those whom he/she delegates this authority to.

The Education Bill (2011) clarifies the law in relation to behaviour and discipline and extends new powers to schools. The Governing Body has charged the Head Teacher to embrace these changes in school policy.

These include empowering the Head Teacher (and other staff she chooses to authorise) to:

- **Discipline pupils outside of the normal school day**  
This includes travelling to and from school and school trips; behaviour outside school which affects the orderly running of school, poses a threat to another pupil or which adversely affects the reputation of the school
- **Search pupils with and/or without their verbal consent if they are suspected of carrying or possessing a prohibited item**
- **Use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in certain situations**