

Choose To Live – Behaviour policy

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Choose to live is committed to the creation an environment where the learning, social and personal needs of young people are adequately addressed. We aim to empower children to achieve in an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect and insist that all parties accept responsibility for their behaviour whilst encouraging others to do the same.

The purpose of the policy is to provide a simple, practical code-of-conduct for staff, learners and parent/ carers which:

- Recognises behavioural norms
- Positively reinforces behavioural norms
- Promotes self-esteem and self-discipline
- Teaches appropriate behaviour through positive interventions

Expectations

Choose To Live is an organisation which believes that all young people have the ability to succeed. We encourage success by supporting them display and encourage positive behaviour.

Careful planning that prevents difficulties from arising and preventative strategies, create a context where acceptable behaviour is positively encouraged and misbehaviour is reduced. We communicate the importance of co-operation, responsibility, concern for others and self-respect.

Children want adults to:

- treat them as a person
- help them learn and feel confident
- make the day a pleasant one
- be just and fair
- have a sense of humour
- Not to get angry in the face of misbehaviour

Staff expectations

We believe that where young people feel they are valued, they will respect adults and accept their authority. Similarly, we recognise the implicit need for young people to develop the skills that make positive relationship with adults possible. It is critically important that staff for Choose To Live are able to build strong relationships, develop high levels of personal resilience and have high expectations where the quality of behaviour is concerned. Staff should never ignore or attempt to excuse poor behaviour. Rather, they should attempt to understand it's communicative intent. We aim to ensure that learners have clear boundaries reflected in our behaviour expectation framework. Restorative justice and informal mediation approaches are adopted to enable children to repair and maintain any relationships that they have damaged.

Parent/carer Expectations

Choose To Live expects parents/carers to:

- Support Choose To Live's policy on attendance and punctuality
- Notify Choose To Live of any factors which may affect the behaviour of their child
- Support their child by attending selected sessions and other meetings
- Be aware of and support Choose To Live's Behaviour Policy

Choose To Live is an inclusive organisation that strives to reach 'at risk' and difficult to engage young people, so will try to keep them involved with our services. However, there are occasions when young people breach the behaviour policy and need to be removed from our programs. When working in a school or establishment, **we will always enforce and adhere to a school behaviour policy**. There are several serious behaviours that stop young people doing well and could result in exclusion from our services or a review. These include:

- Verbal or physical abuse of staff
- Bullying – physical, verbal, emotional
- Sexual harassment of any kind
- Prejudice on grounds of race, age, gender, sexuality, disability and others
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Use or sale of alcohol or other mood-changing drugs
- Deliberate damage or theft of property
- Smoking in or around prohibited spaces
- Refusing to leave premises when asked
- Gambling

There are some sanctions we will consider for lesser breaches of behaviour policies (with support from the school) which include:

- Timeout and cooling off periods
- Warnings – Verbal and written
- Reports

The aim is to manage situations where young people are having difficulty staying focused or displaying behaviours which prevent positive outcomes. **Choose To live will always consult the necessary person in the school or establishment concerned to make a judgement about the course of action to be taken when dealing with such matters.**