**GENERAL STATEMENT OF BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES**

**at THE CAVENDISH HIGH ACADEMY:**

At The Cavendish High Academy, the staff and Governing Board share common values, which include a commitment to assist our pupils:

* To develop independence skills for use beyond school life;
* To experience valued involvement in the school and within the wider community.
* To develop skills necessary to make informed choices, which others will respect, and to communicate these choices to others.
* To make and maintain social relationships and friendships.
* To continue in the ongoing process of self-discovery.
* To reduce incidences of behaviour which adversely impact on one’s own physical or emotional wellbeing, or on the emotional or physical wellbeing of others.

At The Cavendish High Academy, we believe that behaviour which challenges is often the result of an unmet need and/or difficulties in communicating those needs; as such we aim to respond to such individual challenges at individual level. By identifying difficult behaviours, considering physical and sensory issues, addressing mismatches in the environment, and focusing on a person’s highly individualised strengths and needs, we aim to design programmes to teach more effective means of communication, more socially appropriate interactions with others, and greater tolerance of different environments and demands which are encountered every day.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, we aim to enhance the life experiences of all our pupils so that nobody is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of their differing needs, behavioural or otherwise. In order to fulfil this aim, we adopt the principles & approaches of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) to enable people to overcome behaviour challenges and ultimately live the life they want to live.

PBS is widely acknowledged to be the most effective way to support people whose behaviour is challenging to the families, carers and services that support them. Since the Department of Health launched its “Positive and Safe” initiative in April 2014, PBS has been the required model to be used in all adult learning disabilities, social care, and health services.

In contrast to other models of behaviour change, the focus in PBS is not on eliminating behaviour by blocking reinforcing consequences and applying negative ones in their place. The use of punishment and sanctions therefore does not fit with this approach as the focus is instead on teaching alternative and replacement skills. However, the Department for Education requires all schools by law to have a written behaviour and discipline policy which includes school rules and which states explicitly that schools have the power to search for prohibited items and to list which items therefore must not be brought into school. This information consequently follows below.

SCHOOL RULES

In line with Government requirements, The Cavendish High Academy has devised the following school rules, which focus on promoting a culture of care, cooperation, respect for oneself and others, and developing self-awareness and self-control in order to keep people safe. Our school’s Golden Rule is therefore “Show you care for yourself and others” and pupils will be expected, and where necessary, taught how to:

* Be helpful and kind.
* Care for each other.
* Always do your best and let others do the same.
* Be sensible around school and on the playground.
* Always follow any classroom rules.
* Be proud of yourself and your work.
* Learn from your mistakes.
* Always be safe.

The Cavendish High Academy behavioural expectations are as follows:

SEARCHING PUPILS FOR PROHIBITED ITEMS

The Principal (and staff authorised by the Principal has a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, with or without their consent, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect they may be in possession of any of the following prohibited items:

* Knives or weapons
* Alcohol
* Illegal drugs
* Stolen items
* Tobacco and cigarette papers
* Fireworks
* Pornographic images
* Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)