

# Behaviour Management

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

- Staff will make it a priority to build strong relationships with children, young people and adults
- APG staff and children will work together to establish 'ground rules'
- Positive behaviour will be promoted through consulting with the children, young people and adults to encourage them to take ownership and responsibility for the play space
- Positive behaviour will be reinforced with praise and encouragement
- All staff and volunteers will aim to act as positive role models, to promote an atmosphere where children and adults are tolerant and respectful to one another.

## Managing Challenging Behaviour

A child or young person may well display behaviours that could indicate that they are experiencing stress or are unhappy. Staff will take time to chat to them to try and diffuse the emotions that could lead to unwanted behaviour.

APG staff and volunteers will challenge any behaviour that they deem to be inappropriate, whether displayed by another member of staff, a volunteer, a visitor, parent/carer or child.

## Children and young people

### We will:

- Deal with challenging behaviour in a calm and assertive manner, and make every effort to ensure the children and young people understand what is being said to them
- Recognise that some challenging behaviour is attention seeking and ignore it where appropriate
- Where appropriate, give children an opportunity to explain their behaviour and staff will listen carefully to what each child has to say
- Wherever possible, offer children the opportunity to redirect their energies into alternative, more positive options. In some circumstances it may be necessary to remove a child or young person from a situation.
- Be open and clear in stating and explaining non-negotiable boundaries
- Encourage children to resolve conflict through discussion and negotiation

- Use shouting as a way of gaining attention where absolutely necessary, and never as a means of discipline
- Regularly discuss incidents, with a view to developing the most suitable and effective strategies for dealing with inappropriate behaviour.
- Seek to modify inappropriate behaviour through trying to understand the motivation for such behaviour, and removing or replacing that motivation
- Seek specialist intervention from internal and external agencies, where playworkers require support in dealing with challenging behaviour and take action when deemed necessary which may include exclusion from the playground or prosecution in extreme situations
- Discuss appropriate sanctions with the children and young people, should they persist with inappropriate behaviour
- Where appropriate, seek the involvement of parents/carers, in dealing with challenging behaviour
- Adapt our approach to behaviour management according to a child's individual special or additional needs
- Deal with challenging behaviour in a calm and assertive manner and make every effort to ensure the children and young people understand what is being said to them.

## **Adults**

### **We Will**

- Deal with challenging behaviour in a calm and assertive manner, and make every effort to ensure that adults understand what acceptable behaviour at the playground is
- Be open and clear in stating and explaining non-negotiable boundaries
- Regularly discuss incidents with the staff team with a view to developing the most suitable and effective strategies for dealing with inappropriate adult behaviour
- Seek specialist intervention from internal and external agencies, where playworkers require support in dealing with challenging behaviour and take action when deemed necessary which may include exclusion from the playground or prosecution in extreme situations
- Deal with challenging behaviour in a calm and assertive manner and make every effort to ensure the adults understand the position of the playground.
- If an adult is banned from the APG a letter will be sent to them explaining this. In the interests of Health and Safety they may be asked to leave the APG due to posing an unacceptable risk to themselves or others, if they refuse or return the Police will be contacted.

### **We will not:**

- Use sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments as a means of behaviour management
- Tolerate criminal behaviour or activity- in such circumstances the police may be called.

### **Physical Intervention (children and young people)**

Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort, and only when absolutely necessary to prevent harm to themselves or others, or significant damage to equipment

- Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied
- Any physical intervention should be appropriate to the situation and to the age, size and strength of the child/ren involved
- Where possible the child/ren involved should be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop, and a dialogue should be maintained with the child/ren throughout so the staff member can explain what they are doing and why
- Where physical intervention is implemented, the incident will be recorded on an Incident form and discussed with the line manager. In some cases, it may be necessary to discuss the incident with a parent/carer. Depending on the nature of the Incident, it may be necessary to report to CCC's Health and Safety team. See the Health and Safety policy (pp. 34-38) on reporting Incidents/Accidents to CCC's online reporting system.

### **Suspension and Exclusion of Children**

- Should anyone attending the APG persist with unacceptable behaviour, they may be asked to leave and not return until the following session, or in more serious circumstances, for longer periods of time
- Suspension and exclusion will only ever be used as a last resort and in the most extreme of circumstances, where an individual remaining on site poses and unacceptable risk to the safety of themselves or others. APG staff will do everything within their power to work with the child or young person, and other individuals and agencies, in order to avoid reaching this stage.
- If a child or young person are banned from the APG a letter will be sent home explaining this. In the interests of Health and Safety they may be asked to leave the APG due to posing an unacceptable risk to themselves or others, if they refuse or return their family will be contacted then the Police.

Reviewed: 04/07/24	Violet Loveridge	Lead Playworker
Next Review: 04/07/26		