



24th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of my role as Executive Principal, I have been reviewing behaviour in school by getting the views of staff, children and parents alongside making my own observations of behaviour in school. One of the concerns that many staff, children and parents refer to relates to aggressive behaviour from children and what is seen as a lack of consequences for this type of behaviour. Therefore, it is my duty to act upon these views and look to make changes.

When asking some of the children whether they felt safe in school, a number of children told me that they did not and this was due to the aggressive behaviour of others. It saddens me that children feel this way as school is somewhere that children should always feel safe. Many of the children who said they didn't feel safe also spoke about what they saw as children being rewarded for bad behaviour. This I feel is due to the school's 'pastoral' approach e.g. Key Workers, talk therapy etc. This is something that will remain as it is something that school does well and supports children who need it.

However, it is also clear that a firmer stance needs to be taken over aggressive behaviour. It can never be OK for a child to be frightened whilst they are at school. We have even occasionally had incidents where staff have also been hurt or threatened. I cannot allow my staff to come to school and not feel safe either. After discussions with staff, children and parents, it is clear that they feel stronger consequences should be put in place for pupils who are physically and verbally aggressive and I agree completely. Therefore, St Augustine's will use tougher consequences to challenge this behaviour in order to ensure that all children in the school feel safe. The consequences will vary depending on the incident but may include internal exclusion (this is where children have to work away from their year group in school) and fixed-term exclusions (short term exclusions where pupils are not allowed into school and have to complete learning at home). For more serious or persistent behaviour, St Augustine's may discuss a managed move with parents (an agreement between parents, St Augustine's and another school that a pupil will make a fresh start at a new school) or, if all other options have been sought, a permanent exclusion from St Augustine's may be considered.

I hope that all parents and carers will support me with this. It is in the best interests of all children and all staff who work in the school that St Augustine's is a happy and safe place to be. Rest assured that we will continue to help parents with children's behaviour by providing support in school and by referring to other agencies who can help. It is necessary, however, for children to know that there are consequences to their actions – this is a key lesson in life that we need to teach.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Nunn

Executive Principal

The St Augustine's Academy. Longfellow Drive. Worksop. Nottinghamshire. S81 ODW
e-mail: office@thestaugustines.co.uk Website: thestaugustines.co.uk
Executive Principal: Mr Mark Nunn BEd Hons, Dip Ed Telephone: 01909 473473
PART OF THE FORGE TRUST. CEO: MR L. HESSEY MA Ed (dist), NLE, FCCT. CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: MRS SUE TRENTINI