



# Thorns Primary School Behaviour Policy

Policy prepared by R. Jordan and S. Hinkley September 2025

**Review Date: September 2026** 

The policy will be reviewed regularly reviewed and amended if necessary.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Our school's vision is for all children to be safe, happy and learning. Every member of the school community should feel valued and respected, and each person treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. We have an expectation of excellent behaviour in our school. The school's behaviour policy is therefore designed to support a system in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way.

This policy aims to help children grow in a safe and secure environment, and to be positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community. The policy is linked the school's overall vision and values and contributes to fulfilling our aims and commitments. It is vital that these standards are applied in a systematic and consistent way in order to have a positive impact on the internal and external learning environment. This policy is shared in such a way as to be clearly understood by <u>all</u> school staff, (teachers, support staff, lunchtime supervisors), pupils and parents.

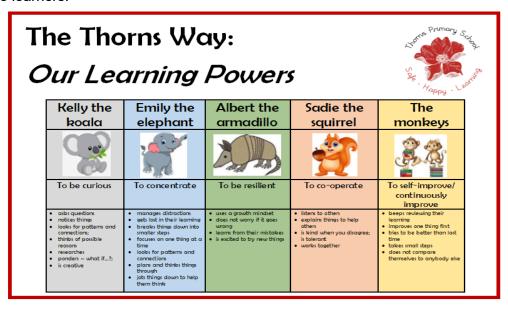
Putting the policy into practice and maintaining good behaviour throughout the school is the responsibility of <u>all</u> staff. They should model the types of behaviour expected in the school policy. Our behaviour policy is rooted in an ethos of clarity and fairness.

The main aims of the behaviour policy are as follows:

- To support the children in 'just doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do' (expected behaviour)
- To encourage appropriate behaviour rather than to simply punish inappropriate behaviour by providing a range of rewards for children of all ages and abilities.
- To encourage children to think about, and make, the right choices about their behaviour, while understanding how their behaviour contributes to school life, relationships, adult life and work.
- To establish clear procedures for dealing with and managing unacceptable behaviour, and ensure a consistent and positive approach throughout the school
- To praise and reward good behaviour, good work and good attitudes being specific about what 'good' means.
- To anticipate problems before they occur by using pastorally orientated approaches in a caring and sympathetic manner to achieve an improvement in behaviour.

Thorns Primary acknowledges that behaviour can sometimes be the result of educational needs, mental health issues, or other needs or vulnerabilities, and will address these needs via an individualised response. To help reduce the likelihood of behavioural issues related to social, emotional or mental health (SEMH), the school aims to create a safe and calm environment in which positive mental health and wellbeing are promoted and pupils are taught to be resilient. The school aims to promote resilience as part of a whole school approach using the following methods:

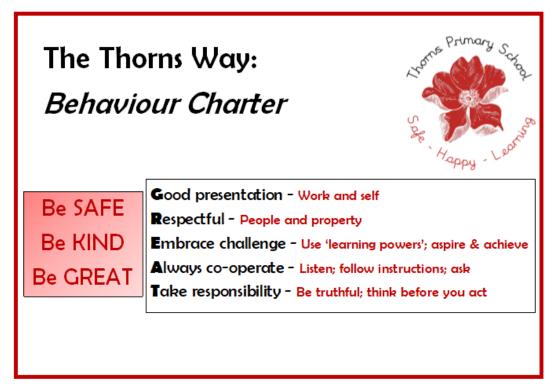
• Learning Powers – all children learn about 5 different learning powers to help them to become effective learners:



- Support from outside agencies such as Reflexions to help identified children to identify and work through their SEMH needs
- The Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for inclusion will work closely with pupils and families
  to support in school and, where necessary, make referrals to agencies such as Early Help through
  our family centres as required.

### **Principles for Behaviour at Thorns**

We have three school rules which we all aim to follow at all times: 'Be Safe, Be kind, Be GREAT!' We call this our Behaviour Charter. Our Thorns Behaviour Charter is displayed in all classrooms and is referred to by all staff to reinforce our expectations and to provide clear guidance to the children of what is expected of them. In consultation with the children, we have created a visual representation of the word GREAT to give children tangible examples to help them to understand what we mean by the phrase:



Any behaviour that compromises our values (that children are Safe, Happy and Learning) will be challenged. Behaviours that are in breach of our Charter will not be accepted.

### At Thorns we encourage *everyone*:

- To show pride in their work, show respect for themselves and in their appearance. Pupils should wear school uniform, and staff should abide by the dress code in the staff handbook.
- To show respect for property (their own and other people's), and the environment in which they work
- To behave in a way that enables everyone to learn and the teacher to teach.
- To respond immediately when being addressed and to be able to converse in a considerate manner
- To understand that we all have the responsibility to follow the school charter, and to accept that there are consequences if policy is not followed. Pupils need to accept responsibility for their actions.

### **Rewards**

The school rewards 'over and above' behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation. By consistently referring to our behaviour charter, we are clear in the expectation we have for all. Positive choices are praised and celebrated; we use these to reinforce what is expected. For children who are seen to be going above and beyond what is deemed to be expected behaviour we may use the following:

- Smile/thumbs up (non-verbal)
- Praise Well done

- Behaviour specific praise related to the relevant Learning Power
- House points either individual or group
- First out to break/dinner time
- Letter/note/postcard home to parents from Class Teacher/SLT/Head Teacher
- Sticker/postcard from senior staff
- Certificate of Achievement
- Praise assembly
- Head Teacher's Award/certificates
- Choc Stars invitation
- Lunchtime behaviour award

### <u>Definition of Unacceptable Behaviour (Serious and Low-Level)</u>

For the purposes of this policy, the school defines "serious unacceptable behaviour" as any behaviour which may cause harm to oneself or others, damage the reputation of the school within the wider community, and/or any illegal behaviour. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Discrimination** not giving equal respect to an individual on the basis of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation
- Harassment behaviour towards others which is unwanted, offensive and affects the dignity of the individual or group of individuals
- Vexatious behaviour deliberately acting in a manner so as to cause annoyance or irritation
- **Bullying** a type of harassment which involves personal abuse or persistent actions which humiliate, intimidate, frighten or demean the individual being bullied
- **Cyberbullying** the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature
- Possession of legal or illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- Possession of banned items
- Truancy and running away from school
- Refusing to comply with disciplinary sanctions
- Theft
- Verbal abuse, including swearing, racist remarks and threatening language
- Fighting and aggression
- Persistent disobedience or destructive behaviour
- Extreme behaviour, such as violence and serious vandalism
- Any behaviour that threatens safety or presents a serious danger
- Any behaviour that seriously inhibits the learning of pupils
- Any behaviour that requires the immediate attention of a staff member

Child-on-child abuse (KCSIE, 2025) must be taken very seriously and never passed off as 'boys being boys, 'typical girls' etc. Please see Child Protection 2025-26.

For the purposes of this policy, the school defines "low-level unacceptable behaviour" as any behaviour which may disrupt the education of the perpetrator and/or other pupils, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Low-level disruption and talking in class
- Failure to complete classwork
- Rudeness
- Lack of correct equipment
- Refusing to complete homework, incomplete homework, or arriving at school without homework (as applicable)

"Low-level unacceptable incidents" may be escalated to "serious/ very serious incidents", depending on the severity and frequency of the behaviour.

'Serious/Very Serious Incidents will be defined as, but not limited to the following:

Acts of violence/aggression including wilful damage

- Swearing/ foul language
- Sexual assault, sexting see CP policy
- Sexual comments see CP policy\*
- Bullying (inc. online)
- Discriminatory comments (including racist or homophobic comments)
- Refusal/ defiance\*
- Verbal abuse\*
- \* discretion and judgement to be used, with consideration given to the nature and context of incident

### **Managing Behaviour and Prevention Strategies**

Instances of unacceptable behaviour are taken seriously and dealt with immediately.

At Thorns Primary, we have high expectations of behaviour and when this is not adhered to then we use a staged approach to managing and issuing consequences. This allows children to understand and recognise the process so that they can make the correct choice. This model is used consistently across the whole school so that both staff and children are aware of the consequence procedure.

Throughout this approach, we believe that teacher intervention and empowerment is vital before escalating. Where possible, staff members will de-escalate and avoid further stages of the approach by having the power to move, swap, distract children from the behaviour present. We also ensure that the certainty of the consequence is paramount in any given situation, not the size. Where possible, teachers will carry out this consequence as we feel this empowers the teacher as well as it building a positive relationship between the teacher and pupil.

Scripted language is used consistently across the school to script difficult interventions as well as managing daily behaviours around the school.

Common examples that staff use at Thorns Primary are:

- I've noticed that you are...
- You have chosen to...
- You know the school expectations are to be kind/safe/GREAT...
- I expect you to...
- That is what I need to see today...

Use of scripted responses creates a consistent approach to behaviour across the school and it allows the children to be fully aware of the high expectations that staff set for them.

Positive teacher-pupil relationships are key to combatting unacceptable behaviour. The school focusses heavily on forming these relationships to allow teachers to understand their pupils and create a strong foundation from which behavioural change can take place.

Where negative behaviour is present, staff members will implement de-escalation strategies to diffuse the situation. This includes:

- Appearing calm and using a modulated, low tone of voice
- Using simple, direct language.
- Avoiding being defensive, e.g. if comments or insults are directed at the staff member.
- Providing adequate personal space and not blocking a pupil's escape route.
- Showing open, accepting body language, e.g. not standing with their arms crossed.
- Reassuring the pupil and creating an outcome goal.
- Identifying any points of agreement to build a rapport.
- Offering the pupil a face-saving route out of confrontation e.g. that if they stop the behaviour, then the consequences will be lessened.
- Rephrasing requests made up of negative words with positive phrases, e.g. "if you don't return to your seat, I won't help you with your work" becomes "if you return to your seat, I can help you with your work".

Children may also be asked to reflect upon the actions they have taken and think about what they would do differently next time (appendix i).

### **The Classroom Environment**

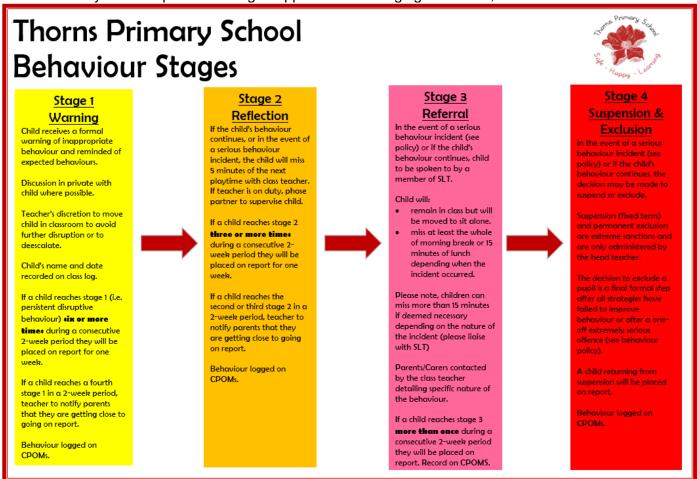
At Thorns, we understand that a well-structured classroom environment is paramount to preventing poor behaviour. This includes the teacher positioning themselves effectively within the classroom, e.g. wherever possible, teachers avoid standing with their backs to pupils and ensure they have full view of the room at all times.

Teachers employ strategic seating arrangements to prevent poor behaviour and enable it to be noticed early, such as:

- Seating those who frequently model poor behaviour closest to, and facing, the teacher.
- Seating those who frequently model poor behaviour away from each other.
- Ensuring the teacher can see pupils' faces, that pupils can see one another, and that they can see the board.
- Ensuring the teacher can move around the room so that behaviour can be monitored effectively.

### **Behaviour Stages**

Thorns Primary School operates a staged approach to managing behaviour, which is outlined below.



### Recording Behaviour

CPOMS is used consistently across the school to record behaviour as well as safeguarding concerns. As detailed above, staff will record behaviour incidents on CPOMS so that the frequency and details of incidents can be looked at over time. Behaviour is tracked and monitored and may result in further discussion with SLT/DSLs. We feel it is important to assess these behaviours so that we can support the individual in making

better choices. Here, teachers and SLT may decide that the recorded behaviours occur at specific times or for specific reasons and therefore individual needs will be considered (see below).

### **Individual Needs**

We recognise that behaviour can be affected by circumstances both at home and school, and that for some children, managing their feelings, behaviour and making good choices can be very difficult. We will ensure that those children who may need additional help to manage their behaviour are given appropriate support. Ongoing and persistent behaviours are monitored using CPOMs. Upon consultation, SLT/DSLs may decide to intervene to identify the cause of the ongoing problems. Both the teacher and senior staff will identify the needs and strategies of support will be set on an Individual Support Plan (ISP) in consultation with the SENCo. This plan will be written to ensure appropriate support is provided to minimise the impact of disruptive behaviours in school. This will be shared with all class staff and parents. If necessary, SLT and the Inclusion Team will discuss if any external agencies are required to support the needs of the individual.

The following may be used in school to support the ISP:

- Daily behaviour chart/timetable logging behaviour per session indicating progress
- Behaviour tracking of persistent disruption using weekly tick sheet (appendix iii)
- Report Card Weekly summarising the week's progress towards agreed targets
- Diary (home/school) Daily or Weekly comments aiming towards positive progress
- Break times and lunch time play periods may be bespoke to the needs of the child

NB: If the persistent behaviour is occurring at lunch time, it may be necessary to risk assess the situation which could result in a temporary return home for lunch time. This decision would be taken in consultation with the head teacher and parents and would be time limited.

A review meeting will be arranged to discuss evidence tracking the child's progress following the strategies implemented on the ISP. A decision will be made at this stage determining if sufficient improvement in behaviour has been observed. If further support is required, a new ISP will be drawn up and further support may be gained from outside agencies such as Sycamore Behaviour Support Service, Educational Psychology, and CAMHS.

### **Behaviour Off School Premises**

Pupils, who attend Thorns Primary School, must agree to represent the school in a positive manner. The guidance laid out in our Behaviour Charter applies both inside school and out in the wider community, particularly if the pupil is dressed in school uniform.

Staff can discipline pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises when the pupil is:

- Wearing school uniform.
- Travelling to or from school.
- Taking part in any school-related activity.
- In any way identifiable as being a pupil at the school

Staff may also discipline pupils for misbehaviour off the school premises that, irrespective of the above:

- Could negatively affect the reputation of the school.
- Could pose a threat to another pupil, a member of staff at the school, or a member of the public.
- Could disrupt the orderly running of the school.

Any bullying witnessed outside of the school premises and reported to a member of staff, will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

The school will impose the same consequences for bullying incidents and non-criminal misbehaviour witnessed outside of the school premises as would be imposed for the same behaviour conducted on school premises. In all cases of unacceptable behaviour outside of the school premises, staff will only impose consequences once the pupil has returned to the school premises or when under the supervision of a member of staff.

Complaints from members of the public about the behaviour of pupils from the school are taken very seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

### **Suspension and Exclusion**

In rare cases, and as a last resort the school is entitled to deal with the matter as a disciplinary issue under this behaviour policy. Any consequences that are applied will be reasonable, proportionate and fair and may include a fixed-term suspension or permanent exclusion provided it is compliant with the DfE's statutory exclusions guidance.

For discipline to be lawful, the school will ensure that:

- The decision to discipline a pupil is made by a paid member of school staff, or a member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher.
- The decision to discipline a pupil is made on the school premises or whilst the pupil is under the charge of a member of staff, such as during an educational trip or visit.
- The decision to discipline a pupil is reasonable and will not discriminate on any grounds, as per the Equality Act 2010.

The school will ensure that all discipline is reasonable in all circumstances, and will consider the pupil's age, religious requirements, SEMH needs, any SEND, and any other relevant information.

### The decision to suspend or exclude a pupil may be taken in the following circumstances:

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Head Teacher. Exclusion, whether fixed-term or permanent may be used for infringements of the school's Policy, including, but not limited to:

- Verbal abuse to staff and others
- Physical abuse to/attack on pupils/adults
- Damage to property
- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school consequences and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Head Teacher makes the judgement that exclusion is an appropriate sanction. At times, the Head Teacher will decide not to use the extreme sanction of an exclusion but will decide that an alternative plan should be drawn up to try avoid an exclusion in the future e.g. a reduced timetable or ISP.

### **Exclusion procedure**

Most exclusions are of a fixed-term nature and for a short duration (usually between one and three days). These are called suspensions.

The DfE regulations allow the Head Teacher to suspend a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding a total of 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors have established arrangements to review promptly all permanent exclusions from the school and all suspensions that would lead to a pupil missing more than 15 days in a school term or missing a public examination.

The Governors have established arrangements to review suspensions which would lead to a pupil being excluded for more than five days but not more than 15 days in a school term where a parent has expressed a wish to make representations.

Following suspension, parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be sent by post or given directly to the parent, giving details of the suspension and the date the suspension ends. Parents have a right to make representations to the Governing Body and the Local Authority as directed in the letter.

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the suspension and this will involve a member of the SLT and other staff where appropriate. During this meeting, discussions will take place about how to move forward positively. In exceptional circumstances, an immediate return to full-time school may be considered detrimental to the child's successful re-integration back into school and a Support Plan may be

drawn up called a RIPE (Reduction in Pupil Entitlement) see appendix v and vi. This will include planned strategies to achieve a successful return to school, staff involved where needed and any outside agency support that may be required and a review date will be agreed with parents. It may be necessary to complete a series of RIPEs if a phased return is needed and regular meetings will be arranged to discuss the progress of the phased return.

During the course of a suspension, where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility as parents/guardians.

Records relating to suspensions will be stored confidentially and must be recorded on CPOMS, along with copies of letters to parents.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered:

- 1. The first is a final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort. This could include persistent disruptive behaviour, including bullying (which would include racist or homophobic bullying), assault on a member of staff or another pupil, or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on school premises.
- 2. The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies and where it could be appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or 'one off' offence. These might include:
  - Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
  - Sexual abuse or assault
  - Supplying an illegal drug
  - Carrying an Offensive Weapon (Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1993 as "any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him").

The school will involve the police for any relevant offences. These instances are not exhaustive but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour seriously affects the discipline and well-being of the school.

### General factors the school considers before making a decision to exclude

Exclusion (or suspension) will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the school or the pupil concerned. Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the Head Teacher will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out, which includes allowing the pupil to give her/his version of events.
- Explore the wider context, taking into consideration how much the incident may have been provoked (for example by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment).
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunity and Race Equality Policies

If the Head Teacher is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the pupil did what he/she is alleged to have done, then exclusion will be the outcome.

### Post-Script

The school may be in a position where the policy needs to be applied due to an incident that has occurred outside of school hours and/or off the school site if it is considered that said incident has:

- a: brought the school into disrepute (e.g. whilst wearing school uniform)
- b: has a considerable negative impact on school or persons therein (this may include online incidents or bullying outside school)
- c: criminal activity or incidents involving the police

### **GDPR**

The processing and recording of data referenced in this policy is done in line with the UK Data Protection Law. CPOMS and Behaviour chart are included in the Information Asset Register (IAR).

Appendix i



# Time to reflect...



Name:	Year Group:	
Which lesson?		
How I felt:		
What happened?		
What could I have done differently?		
What have I learnt?		
How do I feel now?		
Completed with:	Date:	

# **MEETING ROOM** MEETING ROOM WE NEED URGENT WE NEED HELP HELP PLEASE! WHEN YOU CAN!

appendix ii

# Daily behaviour log

# Name of Child

Date:

Session and duration	Shoutin g out	Out of sea t	Kicking/punchin g the table	Throwin g chair(s)	Refusal to complet e task	Swearing at pupils/staff/ou t loud	Aggressiv e outburst towards pupil/ staff	Walkin g out of the room	Tantru m	Other/Additional I notes/context
8.40 -9.00										
9.00 – 9.30										
9.30 -10.30										
9.30 - 10.30										
10.30- 10.45										
10.10										
_										
10.45 – 11.00										
_										
11.00- 12.00										
_										
12.00 -1.00										
1.00-2.00										
_										
2.00-3.00										
3.00-3.15										
_										
Summary	y:									

Compiled by	
	appendix iii



# Individual Support Plan - Term

Pupil Name:	Year Group:
Medical conditions / diagnosis	SEN record:
Agencies involved	
Strengths	
Challenging behaviour	
Early warning signs	
Strategies for positive behaviour	
Previous and additional support	
Teacher signature	
SENCo signature	
Parent Signature	

### AMEND AS APPROPRIATE AND PUT ONTO SCHOOL HEADER

### Reduction in Pupil Entitlement - RIPE

#### Plan 1

### Reason for reduced hours:

This is a short term intervention plan to support XXXXXX to be successful in class and to try and focus on positive success and break the cycle of disruptive behaviour.

Due to XXXXXX behaviour over the past two weeks we have been increasingly concerned as to the level of anger and aggression he has demonstrated towards both peers and adults, and his refusal to comply with reasonable requests from adults.

An alternative timetable of morning only was put into place to support XXXX and meet his needs based on the strengths he presents within school. There was limited success in school which resulted with XXXX being verbally aggressive to pupils and staff in the Year X classroom, not following reasonable requests from staff to follow instructions and was witnessed by other children.

This plan has been devised to promote success for XXXX in sch
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Pupil Name: Year group:

Date of initiation of plan:

### Working towards extending hours:

### > 2.3.2020 - 13.3.2020: 8.40am - 9.20am

8.40- 8.50am

Mum will drop XXXX at the front office. He will then work with a Learning Mentor, who will settle him with a 'meet and greet' session and explain the tasks for the session.

8.50-9:00am

XXXX will complete Literacy activities based on work appropriate for his ability Level.

9:00 -9:10am

XXXX will have the choice of two activities as a 'brain break', re focusing for the next session.

9:10- 9.20am

XXXXwill complete Numeracy activities appropriate for his ability level.

9.20am

End of session. XXXX will have the opportunity to earn a sticker for his green booklet if the session has been completed successfully. XXXX will take the booklet home to show family and bring it back each day.

This plan will be reviewed on **XXXX** and next steps planned, for allowing XXXX to increase his pupil entitlement. This will depend on the success of the reduced hours XXXX has spent in school.

Headteacher :	Parent:

### AMEND AS APPROPRIATE AND PUT ONTO SCHOOL HEADER

### Reduction in Pupil Entitlement - RIPE Plan 2 date

Pupil Name: XXXXXX Year group:

Date of initiation of original plan: xxxx

### Reason for reduced hours:

This is a short term intervention plan to support XXXX to be successful in class and to try and focus on positive success and break the cycle of disruptive behaviour. This plan has been devised to promote success for XXXXX in school.

### Review of the last two weeks:

XXXXX has attended school every morning and has completed most of the tasks set for him. There have been occasions where he has been reluctant to complete his work and has lacked motivation and he has been abusive to XXXXX when she has tried to encourage him. He has earned his sticker for most sessions but this has required significant reminders from XXXXX to remain on task and complete the work set. We would like to see XXXX start to go back into class now for a short period of time so that he starts to reintegrate.

We feel that XXXX needs to continue to work with XXXXX each morning completing 10minutes of Maths work, 10minutes of English work and a 10 minute choice activity but he will then return to class, with XXXX, to complete the first 15minutes of Maths with Year 4. This part of the session will be Retrieval Practice work which will focus basic skills that have already been taught to the class and he will therefore be able to join in with the work. This session will then end at 9.35am Working towards extending hours:

### > 17.3.2020 - 27.3.2020: 8.40am - 9.35am

8.40-8.50am

Mum will drop XXXX at the front office. He will then work with a Learning Mentor, who will settle him with a 'meet and greet' session and explain the tasks for the session.

8.50-9:00am

XXXX will complete Literacy activities based on work appropriate for his ability Level.

9:00 -9:10am

XXXX will have the choice of two activities as a 'brain break', re focusing for the next session.

9:10-9.20am

XXXX will complete Numeracy activities appropriate for his ability level.

9.20 - 9.35am

XXXX will go into class with XXXX to complete the Retrieval Practice session in Maths with the class. He will sit in his usual place and XXXX will sit with him.

9.35am

End of session. XXXX will have the opportunity to earn a sticker for his green booklet if the session has been completed successfully. XXXX will take the booklet home to show family and bring it back each day.

This plan will be reviewed on **XXXX** and next steps planned, for allowing XXXX to increase his pupil entitlement. This will depend on the success of the reduced hours XXXX has spent in school.

Headteacher :	Parent: