

Beacon Alternative School CIC (and Alternative Provision)

Student Code of Conduct



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Written by: O'Connell/Field

Review Due by: January 2027

Note: Beacon Alternative Provision operates under Beacon Alternative School CIC, which is not currently a registered school but is working toward future registration.

This policy applies to all Beacon AP sites, including home-based teaching locations and approved off-site venues. It applies to all students, staff, volunteers, and visitors while under Beacon's duty of care.

1. Introduction

Beacon Alternative Provision is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment where young people feel understood, valued, and able to learn.

We recognise that many students attending Beacon have experienced disruption, unmet needs, anxiety, trauma, or exclusion from mainstream education. As a result, we do **not expect perfect behaviour**. We understand that behaviour is often a **form of communication**, particularly for students with SEND or additional needs.

This Code of Conduct sets out shared expectations that support safety, learning, and positive relationships, while allowing flexibility, understanding, and support.

2. Our Approach to Behaviour

At Beacon:

- Behaviour is viewed as communication
- Support comes before sanctions
- Relationships come before rules
- Boundaries exist to keep people safe

We work with students to understand what is behind behaviour and to develop safer, more effective ways of expressing needs, emotions, and frustrations.

3. Respect and Relationships

Students are expected to:

- Treat staff, peers, and others with respect, even when finding things difficult
- Use language that is safe and appropriate, with support if needed
- Listen to others and allow them to speak
- Respect differences in people, including needs, backgrounds, and identities

Staff model respectful behaviour and support students to repair relationships when difficulties arise.

4. Safety and Wellbeing

Students are expected to:

- Follow safety guidance given by staff
- Tell an adult if they feel unsafe, worried, or unwell
- Avoid actions that may cause harm to themselves or others

Beacon prioritises emotional and physical safety and understands that students may need support to regulate and make safe choices.

5. Learning and Engagement

Students are encouraged to:

- Engage with learning in ways that feel achievable
- Try their best, even when learning feels challenging

- Accept support and breaks when needed
- Communicate when something feels too hard or overwhelming

Engagement looks different for different students, and effort is valued over compliance.

6. Communication and Support

Students are encouraged to:

- Communicate needs, worries, or frustrations in ways they can manage
- Ask for help when needed
- Work with staff to find solutions when problems arise

Staff will support students to develop communication skills and self-advocacy over time.

7. Use of Technology

When using technology as part of learning, students are expected to:

- Use devices safely and appropriately
- Follow guidance from staff
- Report any concerns about online content or communication

Support will be provided to help students understand safe and responsible use.

8. Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is encouraged as it supports progress and routine.

Students are expected to:

- Attend agreed sessions wherever possible
- Communicate difficulties with attendance
- Arrive on time, with support where needed

Beacon understands that attendance can be affected by anxiety, health, or circumstances and works flexibly to support re-engagement.

9. Responding to Behaviour Concerns

When behaviour causes concern, Beacon will:

- Seek to understand what the behaviour is communicating
- Use calm, supportive conversations
- Offer regulation strategies and support
- Repair relationships where harm has occurred
- Involve parents/carers where appropriate

Sanctions are not the primary response. Consequences, where used, are proportionate, explained, and focused on learning and safety.

10. Serious or Ongoing Concerns

In cases where behaviour:

- Puts someone at risk
- Is repeated and unresolved
- Requires external support

Beacon will work with families, referring agencies, and professionals to review support and provision.

Any decisions are made with the young person's wellbeing and safety at the centre.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Students

Are encouraged to engage, communicate, and work towards safer behaviour with support.

Staff

Provide consistent, calm, and supportive boundaries and respond to behaviour with understanding.

Parents/Carers

Work collaboratively with Beacon to support behaviour and wellbeing.

12. Review and Reflection

This Code of Conduct is reviewed regularly and discussed with students in an accessible way.

Students are supported to reflect on progress, recognise strengths, and develop confidence in managing behaviour and learning.

13. Related Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Incident Reporting Policy