

Here's a parent-friendly summary of the Abernethy Nursery and Primary School Relationships Policy:

Introduction to Abernethy Relationships Policy

At Abernethy School, our relationships policy is all about how students and staff engage with each other and learning. We aim to create a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone. The two key values we focus on are Respect and Responsibility. We believe that when these values are shared by everyone—students, teachers, and families—it helps create a positive atmosphere where children can thrive.

Every child comes from a different background, with unique experiences and expectations. This can influence how they behave and relate to others. While families will have their own values, in order to work together as a team, we benefit from following a common set of values. A consistent approach in School/Nursery helps children feel safe, respected, and ready to learn.

Building Good Relationships

To create a positive learning environment, it's essential for staff to build good relationships with children. School staff will endeavour to get to know each child personally, and parents can help by keeping the school informed about any changes or events in their child's life (like the loss of a pet or welcoming a new sibling). This helps staff provide extra support when needed.

Respect is key to building trust. Learners will be expected to demonstrate respect for any member of staff in many ways – following instructions quickly, responding politely, etc. Staff will model respectful behaviour and support learners to treat others with kindness and consideration.

Supporting Children's Social Skills

Parents are the first teachers. Once in Nursery and School, we will continue to teach social skills like tolerance and respect through lessons and daily interactions. If learners find these skills difficult, staff will work with families to offer extra support. Learners will be encouraged to help each other manage emotions and conflicts in positive ways. For example, students might be encouraged to use their words (rather than behaviour) to say, "Please stop that" or "When you do that, it makes me feel upset," helping them express themselves respectfully. We as adults should help children understand that physical means to resolve problems is never acceptable. Children need to know the difference between self-defence, retaliation and vengeance.

Students are also taught that tone of voice, body language, and facial expressions affect how they or their words are understood. This is an important life skill that we can all help children learn from a young age.

Handling Behaviour Issues

If a student makes a poor choice, staff should address it calmly and respectfully, ensuring that the student understands what went wrong and how to improve. Parents may be contacted if necessary, but the goal is always to guide children towards making better choices in the future. If a student is