

24 March 2017

Dear parents/carers

As most of you will be aware, we had a challenging day here at Birches Head on Thursday. There were some incidents at lunchtime and at the end of the school day where some pupils refused to follow reasonable requests to comply with our behaviour and safeguarding policies. Staff responded with professionalism and skill to establish order and to make sure that everyone was safe, and lessons continued in the afternoon as usual. Unfortunately, during the disturbance, a member of staff slipped and fell, and needed to go to hospital. She has sustained an injury as a result of this accident. Reports and comments in the Sentinel did not give an accurate picture of events.

These events do not represent the kind of behaviour that we will accept at this school. Today, we have reminded pupils of their responsibility to behave with respect for themselves and others, and to comply with the standards of behaviour they agreed to when they became a member of this learning community. There will be zero tolerance of any refusal to comply with a reasonable request from any member of staff, whether that be in relation to a uniform issue or any other disciplinary issues. Staff are here to keep pupils safe and to make sure they are focussed on learning, and they will be relentless in their duty to make this happen. Pupils who refuse to comply will be subject to a full range of sanctions including internal and external exclusions.

Where we need to learn lessons, you can be assured that we will. We believe in the potential of the children in this school, and we care about their futures. Your support in encouraging your children to do their best at school is crucial – to do their best in lessons, and also in their attitudes and behaviour. We appreciate the positive input, because, without your support, children will find it harder to trust us, and trust is vital if we are to succeed.

If you have any questions or concerns, we are here to listen and respond. You are very welcome to make an appointment to come and talk, tour the school or to email me with any thoughts.

Yours sincerely



**Ms K Dixon
Headteacher**