Murringo Public School Wellbeing and Behaviour

Overview

Murringo Public School is committed to explicitly teaching and modelling positive behaviour and to supporting all students to be engaged with their learning.

Our goal is to inspire every child to thrive positively in the school community and beyond. We focus on promoting excellence, opportunity and success for every student, every day. We value and strive to develop respectful, responsible, and resilient learners in a caring learning community that fosters gratitude, empathy, and mindfulness.

Principles of positive behaviour support, trauma-informed practice, inclusive practice, and social emotional learning underpin our daily practice. High expectations for student behaviour are established and maintained through effective role modelling, explicit teaching, and planned responses.

To achieve our mission, key programs prioritised and valued by the school community are:

- PAX
- Restorative Practice
- Friends Resilience Programs
- Care Continuum

These programs prioritise social and emotional learning which supports good mental health, positive relationships and supports prevention of bullying.

Murringo Public School rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. School staff actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Partnership with parents and carers

Murringo Public School will partner with parents/carers in establishing expectations for engagement in developing and implementing student behaviour management and antibullying strategies, by:

- inviting parent/carer and student feedback through formal and informal means, such as school surveys, consulting with the P & C, formal and informal meetings and local AECG
- using concerns raised through complaints procedures to review school systems, data, and practices.

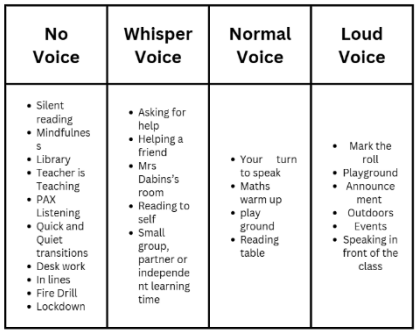
Murringo Public School will communicate these expectations to parents/carers through the school newsletter and school website. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

School-wide expectations and rules

Murringo Public School has the following school-wide expectations and rules:

PAX Expectations:

<table>
<tr><th>Expectation</th><th>What this looks like</th></tr>
<tr><td>Quick and Quiet Transitions</td><td>• PAX hands and feet. Keep your hands and feet off other people.
• Walking with purpose.
• Hear: equipment moving, chairs, quiet footsteps.
• See: walking.
• PAX hands and feet. Keep your hands and feet off other people.
• Walking with purpose.
• Hear: footsteps, the environment.
• See: walking, number order, hands by sides or in pockets</td></tr>
<tr><td>PAX listening and PAX voices</td><td>Desk
• PAX Quiet
• Hear: silence, equipment still, typing stops, only one person talking.
• See: equipment down, 2 PAX hands if needed, PAX up, eyes on teacher, chairs tucked in, hands up to speak.
Floor
• PAX Quiet
• Hear: only one person talking, quiet at all times, waiting your turn to speak.
• See: 6Ls, do what you are asked first time, hands up to speak, waiting your turn to talk, eyes on the learning.

PAX Voices
 
</td></tr>
<tr><td>PAX Hands and Feet</td><td>• Keeping me to me. No touching or hurting.
• Walking with purpose.
• See: hands by sides or in pockets, feet on the ground, respectful use of equipment.
• Hear: feet walking, quietness.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Using school words</td><td>• No swearing or ‘paddock talk’.
• No racism.
• Speak politely.
• Using your manners.
• Using kind words.
• Hear: please, are you ok? kindness.
• See: helping, think before you speak.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Seating for success</td><td>Desk
• Choose a sensible person to sit next to.
• PAX hands and feet. Keep your hands and feet off other people. Keep on your own side.</td></tr>
</table>

	• Ask politely to sit next to someone. • It's your learning journey. • Hear: pencils writing, silence, typing, equipment moving, quiet voices. • See: focusing, sitting on chairs at the desk, working children, hands up for help. Floor • Choose a sensible person to sit next to. • PAX hands and feet. Keep your hands and feet off other people. • Ask politely to sit next to someone. • Our learning area is near the teacher. • It's your learning journey. • PAX listening. • Hear: teacher speaking, taking turns to talk, one person talking only. • See: eyes looking at the teacher, 6Ls, hands up to speak.
Keep Stamina	• Keep up the good work. • Focused on your learning journey. • Stay on task for the entire activity. • PAX leader. • Hear: no talking, silence • See: people concentrating on your work, teamwork, work complete, tickets • Lachlan: chart full of stamps, no nudge or reminder.
It's your learning journey	• Mind your own business. • Don't get involved if it's not about you. • Focus on yourself. • Learning at your point of need. • You are responsible for your own learning. • Make your own choices and decisions. Be an alpaca. • Hear: listening, one person talking at a time. • See: PAX leader.
Be kind	**Classroom** • Asking kindly with manners. • Supporting and encouraging each other. • Be nice and be caring. • Hear: manners, school words, speak in a gentle tone • See: helping, teamwork, number order, wait your turn, PAX listening. **Playground** • Helping each other. • Using kind words. • PAX hands and feet. • Include others in your games and let them join. • Actions speak louder than words. • PAX leaders. • Hear: communicating, support, speak in a gentle tone • See: think before you speak

Behaviour Code for Students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

The Behaviour Code for Students can be found at https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policyprocedures/pd-2006-0316/pd-2006-0316-01. This document, translated into multiple languages, is available here: Behaviour code for students.

Whole school approach across the care continuum

Our school embeds student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices across the care continuum to promote positive behaviour and respond to behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying behaviour.

These approaches and strategies are built on a foundation of evidence-based effective classroom practices that set the tone for engagement with learning and respectful relationships. These practices include:

- stating and explicitly teaching classroom expectations
- establishing predictable routines and procedures that are communicated clearly to students
- encouraging expected behaviour with positive feedback and reinforcement
- discouraging inappropriate behaviour
- providing active supervision of students
- maximising opportunities for active engagement with learning
- providing carefully sequenced engaging lessons that provide options for student choice
- differentiating learning content and tasks to meet the needs of all learners
- embedding opportunities to practice gratitude, empathy and mindfulness

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
Prevention	PAX	PAX brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture.	All
Prevention	Child Protection	Teaching child protection education is a mandatory part of the syllabus.	Students K-6
Prevention	National Day of Action (NDA)	Our school participates in the annual National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) in August each year.	Staff, students 3 - 6
Prevention / Early intervention / Targeted / Individual	Australian eSafety Commissioner Toolkit for Schools to prevent and respond to cyberbullying	The toolkit resources are categorised into four elements: Prepare, Engage, Educate and Respond. The resources are used to engage with the school community about creating and maintaining safe online environments to prevent cyberbullying incidents. The toolkit includes actions to report and manage cyberbullying incidents.	All
Early intervention	Friends Program	Small group intervention to support and increase the coping strategies of students	Individual Students K-6

Care Continuum	Strategy or Program	Details	Audience
		who are feeling anxious, stressed or who have poor resilience in a small group environment at school.	
Early / targeted intervention	Boys to the Bush	Small groups work within a 5-week program. Students are given the opportunity to link with their local communities to improve their engagement, resilience, build self-esteem and work on life skills.	Individual Students 5-6
Targeted / Individual intervention	Learning and Support Team	The LST works with teachers, students and families to support students who require personalised learning and support.	All
Targeted / Individual intervention	Check-in, Check-up, Check-out.	The LST refer students to the executive who have attendance/wellbeing concerns. They are assigned an exec mentor to provide regular check-ins and check-ups and a check-out during the week.	Individual students, executive
Individual intervention	Individual behaviour support planning	This may include developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing behaviour support, behaviour response and risk management plans.	Individual students, parent/carer, LAST, Executive

Planned responses to positive appropriate behaviour, inappropriate behaviour and behaviours of concern, including bullying and cyber-bullying

Planned responses to behaviour that does not meet school expectations are either teacher or executive managed. Staff use their professional judgement, guided by a matrix of minor and major behaviours, in deciding whether a behaviour is teacher managed escalated to be managed by the principal. They should consider whether the behaviour poses a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the student or others. See Appendix 1.

A behaviour of concern is challenging, complex or unsafe behaviour that requires more persistent and intensive interventions. A behaviour of concern does not include low-level inappropriate or developmentally appropriate behaviour.

- **Teacher managed –** low level inappropriate behaviour is managed by teachers in the classroom and the playground. See Appendix 2.
- **Executive managed –** behaviour of concern is managed by school executive. See Appendix 3.

Corrective responses are recorded on Behaviour / wellbeing ITD system. These include:

Classroom	Non-classroom setting
• use of reset room • stay in at break to discuss/ complete work • conference • detention, reflection, community and restorative practices • communication with parent/carer.	• time out of play • walk with teacher • detention, reflection community and restorative practices • communication with parent/carer.

Murringo Public School staff model, explicitly teach, recognise and reinforce positive student behaviour and behavioural expectations. PAX and The Friends Resilience Program consist of evidence-based strategies used daily by teachers to teach self-regulation, reduce impulsivity, increase focus and strengthen peer networks.

We acknowledge that not all students are encouraged by the same thing or in the same ways. Younger students may be more motivated by adult attention while older students are typically more motivated by peer attention, activities, privileges, or freedom. When learning new skills, students need immediate and frequent reinforcement and as they develop mastery they respond to intermittent and long-term reinforcement to maintain their social behavioural efforts.

The use of verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback is the most powerful way to (see Appendix 4):

- help adults and learners to focus on positive social behaviour
- increase the likelihood that students will use the expected behaviours and skills in the future
- decrease unexpected behaviour and reduce the need for corrective responses
- enhance self-esteem and build an internal focus of control.

Prevention Responses to recognise and reinforce positive, inclusive and safe behaviour	Early Intervention Responses to minor inappropriate behaviour	Targeted/Individualised Responses to behaviours of concern
1. Behaviour expectations are taught and referred to regularly. Teachers model behaviours and provide opportunities for practice. Students are acknowledged for meeting school-wide expectations and rules.	1. Refer to school-wide expectations and/or emotional regulation visuals and/or supports so that the student can self-regulate.	1. Contact office to seek help from executive straight away if there is a risk. Otherwise notify student's stage supervisor or executive ASAP and before the end of the school day.
2. Verbal and non-verbal specific positive feedback is paired with a positive, tangible reinforcer in a school-wide continuum for acknowledging expected behaviour.	2. Use indirect responses including proximity, signals, non-verbal cues, ignore, attend, praise, redirect with specific corrective feedback.	2. Executive/CT to take immediate steps to restore safety and return the situation to calm by using appropriate strategies such as: redirecting to another area or activity, providing reassurance or

		offering choices. Incident review and planning is scheduled for a later time, determined by the context and nature of the incident.
3. Non-tangible reinforcers include those that are: • free and frequent Tangible reinforcers include those that are: • moderate and intermittent • significant and infrequent	3. Use direct responses e.g. rule reminder, re-teach, provide choice, scripted interventions, student conference. Students have an opportunity to meet the classroom/playground behaviour expectation before low-level consequence is applied.	3. Executive collects information and reviews the incident from multiple perspectives to determine next steps. Executive to record incident on School Bytes and contact parent/carer by phone. Executive/principal may consider further action e.g., formal caution or suspension.
4. Social emotional learning lessons are taught (The Resilience Project) weekly.	4. Students are provided time out in the classes allocated reset room to allow self-regulation and time for the class to continue work. On the playground students to walk and talk with teacher.	4. Refer to the school's Learning and Support Team considering current and previous behaviour data. Other actions may include completing a risk assessment and/or collaboratively developing a behaviour support/response plan.
	5. Teacher records on School Bytes by the end of the school day. Monitor and inform family as per Appendix 2. For some incidents, referral is made to the school's anti-racism contact officer (ARCO) or anti-bullying co-ordinator.	
Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact	Teacher/parent contact
Teacher contact through the parent portal or phone calls home are used to communicate student effort to meet expectations. Recognition awards for positive individual behaviour are given at weekly school assemblies.	Teacher contacts parents by phone when a range of corrective responses have not been successful, and student is required to access reset room. Individual planning and referral to Learning Support Team may be discussed.	Parent/carer contact is made by school executive to discuss any support and behaviour responses, including referral to the LST, school counsellor, outside agencies or Team Around a School.

Responses to serious behaviours of concern

Responses for serious behaviours of concern, including students who display bullying behaviour, are recorded on School Bytes. These may include:

- review and document incident
- determine appropriate response/s, including supports for staff or other students impacted
- refer/monitor the student through the school learning and support team
- develop or review individual student support planning, including teaching positive replacement behaviour and making learning and environmental adjustments
- detention, reflection and restorative practices (listed below)

- liaise with Team Around a School for additional support or advice
- communication and collaboration with parents/carers (phone, email, parent portal, meeting)
- formal caution to suspend, suspension or expulsion.

The NSW Department of Education Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion Procedures apply to all NSW public schools.

Responses to all behaviours of concern apply to student behaviour that occurs:

- at school
- on the way to and from school
- on school-endorsed activities that are off-site
- outside school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and students' conduct
- when using social media, mobile devices and/or other technology involving another student or staff member.

Students or parents can report bullying to any staff member. NSW public school principals have the authority to take disciplinary action to address student behaviours that occur outside of school hours or school grounds, including cyberbullying. Students who have been bullied will be offered appropriate support, for example through the school counselling service.

Reporting and recording behaviours of concern

Staff will comply with reporting and responding processes outlined in the:

- Incident Notification and Response Policy
- Incident Notification and Response Procedures
- Student Behaviour policy and Suspension and Expulsion procedures.

Detention, reflection community and restorative practices

Toilet and food breaks are always included when withdrawal from free choice play at either break is planned as a response to behaviour. The maximum length of time will be appropriate to the age/developmental level of the student.

Strategy	When and how long?	Who coordinates?	How are these recorded?
Classroom Restoration – an informal debriefing after repeated minor behaviours of concern in the classroom/other setting.	Next appropriate break.	Teacher	Documented in School Bytes
Reflection – a structured debriefing and planning after a crisis event or behaviour of concern with an individual student (reflection)	Next appropriate break or day at	Assistant Principal/Principal	Documented in School Bytes

Strategy	When and how long?	Who coordinates?	How are these recorded?
	either lunch or recess break		
Alternate play plan – withdrawal from free choice play and re-allocation to office, library, or classroom for supervised play following breach in behaviour. The purpose is to assist the student to achieve the desired behaviour, to reflect on their behaviour and make positive choices – individual or group (detention)	Next break	Assistant Principal/Principal	Documented in School Bytes
Restorative practice – peer mediation or circles in groups	Scheduled for either lunch or recess break	Assistant Principal/Principal	Documented in School Bytes

Review dates

Last review date: Week 4, Term 2, 2024

Next review date: Week 7, Term 1, 2025

Appendix 1: Behaviour Matrix

Our School Expectations

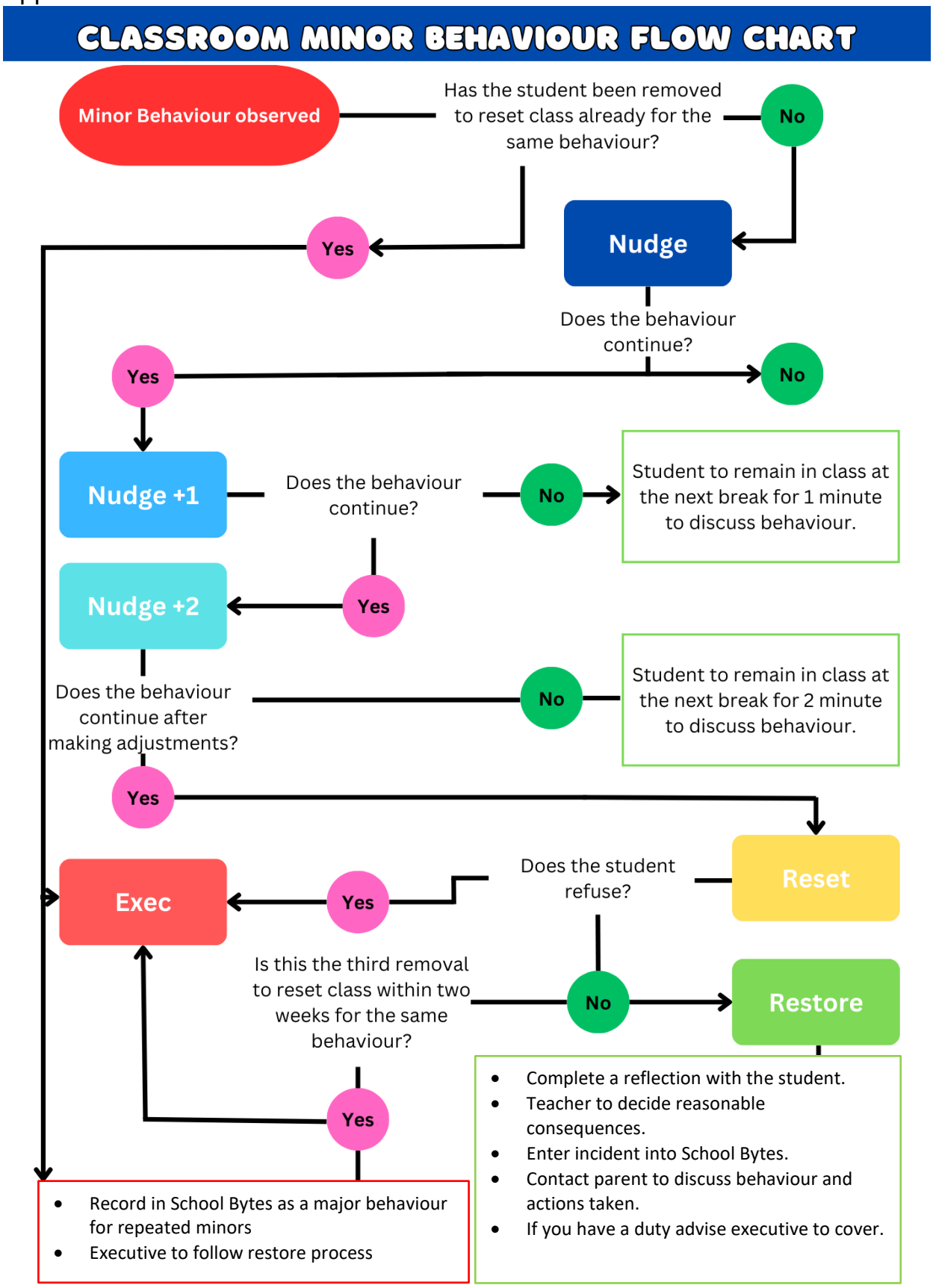
Behaviour Matrix:

Minor Behaviours: Low level inappropriate behaviour is managed by teachers in the classroom and playground

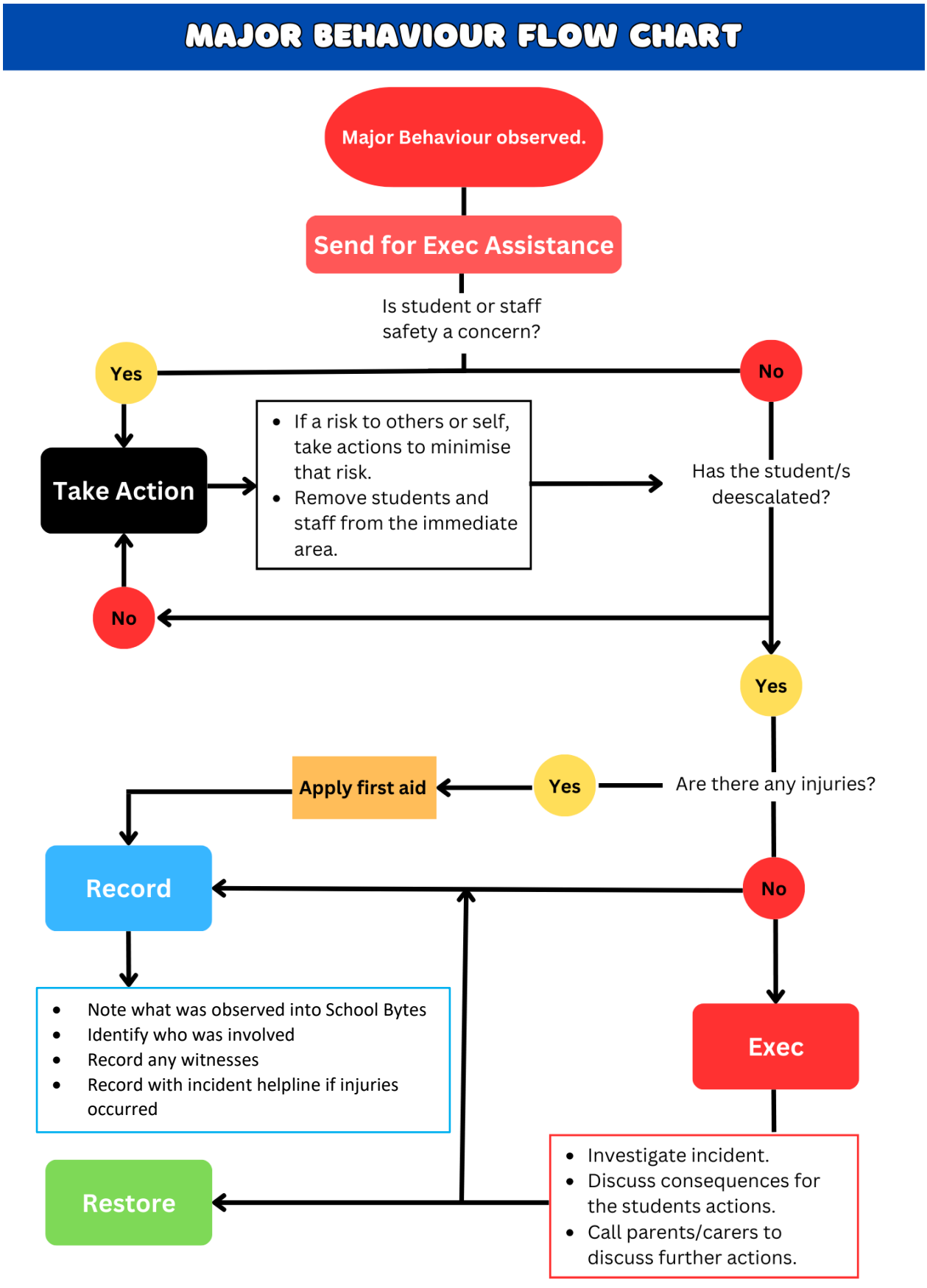
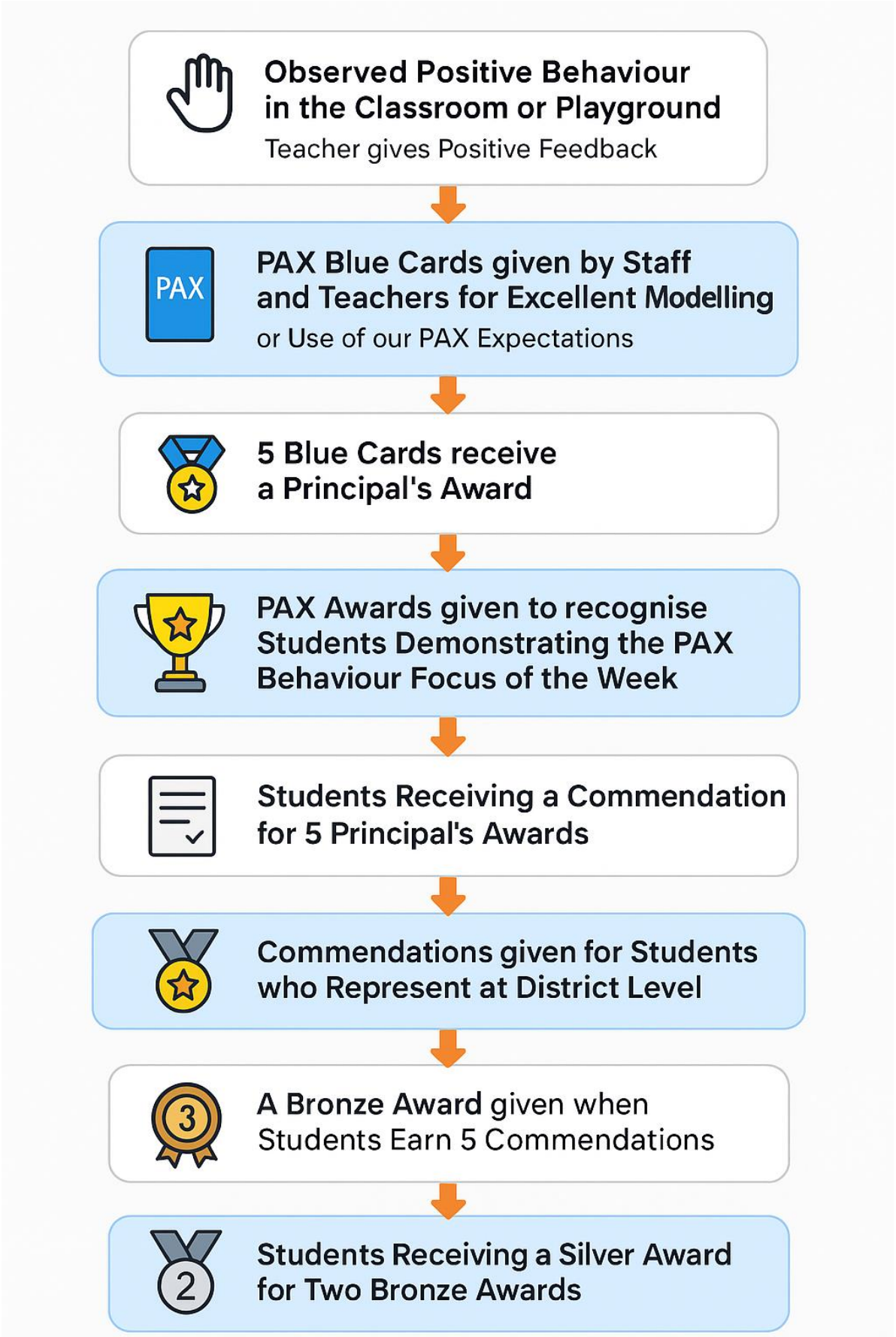
Major Behaviours: Behaviour of concern is managed by the school principal

Minor:	Major
• Playing in the toilets or at the bubblers • Isolated, deliberate non-compliance • Unsafe use of equipment • Unsafe play on playground equipment • Unsafe physical contact in sport and games • Inappropriate behaviour when lining up • Littering • Running on concrete/walkways • Disruptive/off task • Leaving classroom without permission • Inappropriate transitioning between activities • Misuse of ICT devices • Inappropriate language • Indirect hands on • Late to class • Out of bounds	• Repeated non-compliance / defiance • Repeated disruptions/off task • Deliberate out of bounds • Vandalism / theft • Dangerous play • Physical violence (hitting, kicking, punching, biting, throwing objects, stabbing, spitting, pushing) • Bullying / harassment (verbal,/teasing, psychological/emotional, cyber, racial, sexual) • Verbal abuse (directed swearing, intimidation, back chatting) • Inappropriate use of ICT • Absconding • Criminal behaviour (drugs, weapons, cigarettes) • Pornographic material • Sexual behaviour or making sexual references • Racism or discrimination

Appendix 2: Minor Behaviour Flowchart



Appendix 3: Major Behaviour Flowchart



Appendix 4: Positive Reinforcement