

Sir Tom Finney Community High School - Policy – ‘Safe Spaces’

Aims

To maintain the commitment to providing a safe, non-threatening and secure whole school environment.

To provide rooms/areas, called ‘safe-spaces’, for use by students who present the most challenging behaviours.

To be available for withdrawal of a student (staff or student initiated) in line with the behaviour and discipline policy.

Principles

Any ‘safe-space’ to be used as part of an agreed individual behaviour plan.

‘Safe-space’ rooms to be maintained and resourced, bearing in mind the individual(s) who may use them.

Under no circumstances should any individuals be left unsupervised whilst using a ‘safe-space’.

Any students using a ‘safe-space’ must do so for a limited period and return to class or lesson activity when it is deemed safe and appropriate to do so.

Guidance

In certain situations it may be relevant to request a student or through positive handling move a student to one of the rooms designated as a ‘safe-space’. These are rooms set aside for the purposes of withdrawal and should only be used in line with an individual’s behaviour plan or strategies to manage challenging behaviour. They can be customised to suit the individual using them and as such may or may not be stimulatory. At no time should a student be left unsupervised whilst using them and students must be observed at all times. Staff should actively encourage a student to ‘calm’ and as soon as is reasonable and appropriate they should return to complete the task or activity they were involved in or move onto a new activity.

An individual student may take themselves to a particular ‘safe-space’ as a learnt strategy to manage their own frustrations, anxiety or behaviour. If this happens then a member of staff should accompany them to monitor and observe, following the guidance as above.

All use of a safe space must be recorded in the Safe Space Monitoring forms.

Please note ‘safe-space’ rooms are not for time-out and under no circumstances should ‘locks’ be fitted to a door for the intentional use of ‘locking a student inside.’