



Lisbon Montessori School

Behavior Policy

Updated in 2021

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org



STATEMENT OF INTENT AND GENERAL COMMUNITY-WIDE BEHAVIOR GOALS

At the core of our Lisbon Montessori community is a spirit of mutual respect and support, giving attention to the integrity and worth of every individual. Therefore, each member of the Lisbon Montessori community – students, staff, parents/guardians – is expected to act in ways that show consideration and respect for others and enhance an open atmosphere of trust.

Lisbon Montessori's goals are to foster a community that consistently behaves in socially acceptable ways, and that shows an understanding of the needs and rights of others. Every community member has the right to be content and secure at school and supported when the situation dictates. Trust, respect, and support are essential to upholding the meaning and value of community. Every action that affirms consideration, respect, integrity, and inclusion builds the kind of community we seek at Lisbon Montessori.

- We expect all community members to feel physically, intellectually, and psychologically safe at school or school functions.
- We expect that all members of our community are always respectful to each other, visitors, and school property. This expectation includes all communications that community members have with each other, including electronic communication.
- We expect all Lisbon Montessori community members to be responsible for communicating instances of disrespect/harassment to the appropriate person(s), e.g., teachers, other staff members, the Head of School.

In regards to our student community, our priority is to ensure that every child feels safe and secure in the school environment. Nevertheless, sometimes problems occur. Beyond essential physical protection, we feel that consequences for inappropriate behavior should be related to the problem behavior. Therefore, we approach the issue through logical consequences, recognizing the importance of the child's responsibility in conflict resolution.

The consequences are dealt with as positively as the situation allows. Any altercation should be a learning experience for the children involved. We make sure that our comments are positive and consistent and make clear what type of behavior is expected. We do not leave children alone during the discipline process but try to help them learn from their mistakes and then get back into the learning process.

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org



SCHOOL GOALS AND STUDENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Lisbon Montessori does not tolerate aggressive or inappropriate behavior by its students and will attend to such behaviors immediately. Below is an outline of expectations of student conduct at Lisbon Montessori that will define our approach to any behavior issue that may occur. In addition, the school expects full parental cooperation in all aspects of the student's life at Lisbon Montessori. All rules apply before, during, and after school and always on school-sponsored outings.

The School aims:

- To balance the freedom and responsibility of the individual with the need for cooperation, order, restraint, and goodwill within the group.
- To provide an environment where the young person will experience encouragement, affirmation, and community.
- To ensure each student's physical and psychological safety.
- To enable each student to develop a high standard of moral integrity gained through growth in self-discipline.
- To help students grow into mature, responsible adults.
- To maintain a high standard for student behavior that reflects positively on self, family, school, and community.
- To nurture each student with loving firmness, respect, and fairness.

The School expects each student:

- To treat others with dignity and respect.
- To treat themselves with that same respect.
- To respect both the work and property of others and to bring only necessary materials to school.
- To have consistent attendance and punctual arrival.

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org



Misbehavior Procedures and Further Guidelines

Updated in 2021

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org



In the event that a student fails to observe the expectations outlined in our behavior policies, the following notes describe the usual approach and procedures for working with the student. The school reserves the right to modify these procedures as it sees fit:

1. In the event of **minor misbehavior**, student and teacher discuss and work cooperatively to resolve the problem. At times an individual's minor misbehavior may be considered by the classroom community because of its impact on the life of the class.
2. **Chronic misbehavior** is reported to parents by the teacher with copies of any reports sent to the Head of School.
3. **Major misbehavior** outlined below is taken to the Head of School. Head of School and parents, teacher(s), and student, as appropriate, meet to resolve.

Major misbehavior:

In the event of significant or chronic misbehavior, a student may be excluded from school, suspended, or expelled.

The school considers the following to be major misbehavior:

- Interference with the rights of others, including physical abuse (such as hitting, punching, kicking, or biting), verbal abuse (such as teasing, taunting, threats, or intimidation), bullying (such as physical aggression, social alienation, verbal aggression, and intimidation.)
- Inappropriate touch or injury to self or others.
- Damage to, abuse of, or stealing any school or personal property.
- Unexcused absence from school or school activity.
- Use of obscene, profane, suggestive, or intimidating written or verbal language.
- Repeated disruptive or uncooperative behavior.
- Conduct committed off-campus and outside school hours that is illegal or reflect negatively on the school.
- Misuse of computer/internet/email privileges.

Peer Conflict:

Beginning at a very early age, the Montessori curriculum teaches children how to resolve conflicts with their words. However, at times, children will have disagreements or arguments that call for intervention. Lisbon Montessori has an ongoing Peer Mediation Program to help students resolve conflicts before they escalate. Several students are trained each year in mediation techniques and are available to assist others who have not been able to solve their differences by talking. The mediators meet with both parties and help develop solutions that work for the parties involved.

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org



Teachers are called in to work with the students if a mediator's resolution attempts are unsuccessful.

Bullying:

While most situations involving peer conflicts or inappropriate behavior can be resolved following the procedures above some repeated aggressive behaviors, escalate to bullying. Acts of bullying will not be tolerated at Lisbon Montessori and can result in immediate suspension.

Bullying is defined as an unwanted, aggressive behavior that includes a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior **is repeated** or has the potential to be repeated, over time. An imbalance of power can be attributed to physical strength, access to embarrassing information, popularity, constant exclusion, etc. Both the repetition of the act and the imbalance of power are present in cases of bullying. Actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, physical or verbal attacks, and consistently excluding others from a group are forms of bullying behavior.

There are three types of bullying behavior:

Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things and includes constant teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting or threatening to cause harm

Social bullying or relational bullying involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes consistent exclusion, telling others not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors about another, or embarrassing someone publicly

Physical bullying involves hurting another person's body or possessions and includes hitting/kicking/punching, spitting, tripping/pushing, inappropriate touching, making mean or rude hand gestures, and taking or breaking someone's possessions.

Any determination of bullying behavior will be met with the student's instant suspension from Lisbon Montessori. To return to school, parents, student, teachers involved, and the Head of School will meet to determine strategies to help the student integrate back into the school.

Lisbon Montessori School

Rua de Santana, 1696, 2750-833 Cascais | NIF: 508732840

Tel: +351215978124 | E-mail: hello@lisbonmontessori.org

website: www.lisbonmontessori.org