

## Cleobury Mortimer Primary School Direct Speech Policy 24/6/20

As we know, there are different punctuation conventions for direct speech. To make it consistent and less confusing for the children, the following policy sets out the expectations at Cleobury Mortimer Primary School. **It should be used in conjunction with the examples of children's work forming the appendices at the end of this policy. They show how it should look in books.**

In direct speech, various punctuation conventions are used to separate the quoted words from the rest of the text: this allows a reader to follow what's going on. Here are the basic rules:

1) The words that are actually spoken should be enclosed in inverted commas. They can be single or double: what matters is consistency - I would like us to encourage double.

"He's very clever, you know."

2) Every time a new speaker says something, you should start a new paragraph and miss a line:

"They think it should be cream," said Jo.

"I don't agree," I replied.

3) There should be a comma, full stop, question mark, or exclamation mark at the end of a piece of speech. This is placed inside the closing inverted comma or commas.

"Can I come in?" he asked.

"What a goal!" she shouted.

"You're right," he said.

"I didn't expect to win."

4) If direct speech comes after the information about who is speaking, you should use a comma to introduce the piece of speech, placed before the first inverted comma:

Steve replied, "No problem."

5) If the direct speech is broken up by information about who is speaking, you need a comma (or a question mark or exclamation mark) to end the first piece of speech and a full stop or another comma before the second piece (before the inverted comma or commas):

"You're right," he said. "It appears to be correct."

"Thinking back," she said, "he didn't expect to win."

**Appendices showing examples of children's work that follow this policy.**

As Dr. Kalmenius drew nearer, Karl stopped in his tracks and turned around to face the familiar figure. He started to shake with fear.

"W-why are you f-following me?" stammered Karl.

He took a step back as Dr. Kalmenius began to speak.

"Oh Karl, don't get so nervous. I am only here to help," he replied.

Karl didn't want anything to do with him; he had got his clockwork piece and that was all he wanted.

"What do you want?" Karl shouted.

"I would like to insert a piece of metal into your leg, now hold still!" Dr. Kalmenius demanded, as he grabbed hold of Karl's leg and stabbed a clock-work piece into it.

"Get off me!" yelled Karl, but Dr. Kalmenius was already laughing his head off.

It was too late for Karl to save himself...

"What do you need from me?" <sup>he said</sup> ~~said~~ Karl, trying his best to sound confident.

"Oh, I don't need anything," said Dr Kalmenius. "I need you to become something."

"Become something?" Karl said ~~appe~~ <sup>appre</sup> + apprehensively ~~to~~ with a confused look on his face.

Suddenly, Dr Kalmenius pulled ~~se~~ <sup>out</sup> a ~~to~~ newly sharpened blade and without agreement, ~~then~~ ~~sliced an incision~~ grabbed Karl's hand, ~~and then~~ sliced a ~~small~~ incision into the palm of his ~~rep~~ shaking hands.

"You are now my new test subject," replied Dr Kalmenius, while he smiled ~~st~~ <sup>st</sup> sinisterly.

After his words, he ~~to~~ proceeded to pull <sup>out of his pocket,</sup> ~~to~~ a small