

SEPTEMBER 2019

BALLAKERMEEEN HIGH SCHOOL



Conduct and Expectations

Inspiring and supporting our students, enabling them to
become confident and capable citizens

PASSIONATE ABOUT LEARNING
PASSIONATE ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Respect, good manners, punctuality and an excellent work ethic are important life skills and with your help, we will do all we can to ensure our students develop them in abundance.

At Ballakermeen, we aim to build a community based on mutual respect. We have very high expectations of student behaviour and appreciate that we have a duty to ensure that our students understand how to conduct themselves appropriately.

We want to work in partnership with you and this booklet is an important starting point that outlines our expectations. We hope you find it both informative and useful. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our students grow up to become responsible, successful adults.

UNIFORM NON-NEGOTIABLES



- >> My tie will always be worn correctly.
- >> My top button will always be fastened.
- >> My shirt will always be tucked in.
- >> My blazer will be worn at all times.
- >> I will not wear outdoor clothing inside the school building.

BEHAVIOUR NON-NEGOTIABLES

- >> I will not disrupt lessons or the learning of others.
- >> I will follow reasonable requests without argument.
- >> I will move around the school site in an appropriate manner.
- >> I will talk to staff and students in a respectful manner.
- >> I will not swear or use inappropriate language in school.
- >> I will not venture into 'out of bounds' areas during break or lunchtimes.

CONSEQUENCES

We want our students to have a strong sense of self-worth, respect for others, an awareness of the world and the positive contribution they can make.

We always do our utmost to praise and reward our students at every opportunity. We do, however, understand, that on occasions our students make poor choices. The school has a clear behaviour policy, and a series of expectations of the way that students should behave when at school (see non-negotiables). Our expectations reflect those values upheld by society outside of the school gates i.e. treating each other with respect, care and tolerance; avoiding prejudice and abuse of others.

The purpose of sanctions is to reinforce that certain behaviours or attitudes are not acceptable.

For many minor matters, a discussion about the incident and how it may have been dealt with in a more appropriate way may be sufficient. Where there is an ongoing problem, or the misbehaviour is more serious, then this discussion may be accompanied by a sanction.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AN INCIDENT IS REPORTED?

There are times when further information is needed before a decision can be made. In these instances, the following general procedure will be followed:

- » Those involved will be asked to explain what happened. This is usually by way of a version of events.
- » Staff may ask witnesses for their account; this may include both students and staff. Where possible, witnesses deemed 'neutral' i.e. outside of the friendship groups of those involved, will be used.
- » Any camera footage of the area at the time may be viewed.
- » A decision will be made as to the likely pattern of events based on the available information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CAN'T PROVE, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, WHAT HAPPENED IN A GIVEN INCIDENT?

- » Schools are expected to take into account the 'balance of probability' as to what has happened. We will do our utmost to get as accurate a picture as possible before making any decision.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SCHOOL AND A PARENT/CARER DISAGREE ABOUT THE WAY TO RESPOND TO AN INCIDENT?

- » We are fortunate to have the support of our parents. However, if you wish to query a decision as you feel there is good reason to do so, we would encourage you to contact the Form Tutor in the first instance.

We cannot promise that our values and judgements will automatically reflect an individual parent/carer's views - though we do try to make sure that our stance is logical, clearly explained and that we have a consistent rationale that we apply fairly.

The school has the right to impose sanctions without parent/carer consent and - if necessary - will do so to make sure that, within the school context, children are dealt with fairly and consistently. However, we would always prefer to explain the rationale and gain parent/carer support rather than simply state our right to impose any sanction. The school will not accept that any individual student should be exempt from school sanctions. When an after school detention is issued, parents will be informed at least 24 hours in advance.

DISCUSSING CONCERNS

- » If you wish to speak to a member of staff face to face, please contact the school and provide further details/explain your reasons for wanting to arrange a meeting. A member of staff will get back to you within 48 hours.

Please note, it is not acceptable or practicable to arrive in reception expecting/demanding to see a member of staff. First and foremost, we are teachers and as a result are rarely available to meet with parents/carers without prior arrangement.

HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

AS A STUDENT, I SHALL DO MY BEST/AGREE TO:

- >> Attend school every day and arrive on time to school and lessons
- >> Focus in lessons and work to the best of my ability
- >> Treat other students, teachers and other adults with respect and behave in such a way as to not disrupt the education of any other students
- >> Follow reasonable staff requests without question or argument
- >> Move around the school sensibly
- >> Discourage the bullying of other students
- >> Make sure I bring the correct equipment and wear the proper uniform in a tidy manner
- >> Complete all classwork, coursework and homework fully and on time
- >> Use my planner to record all homework and have it checked regularly
- >> Let my parents or the school know if I am having any problems or concerns which may affect my work
- >> Make sure information from school is given to my parents as quickly as possible
- >> Help keep the school free of litter and look after school equipment and buildings
- >> Be a good role model for the school when acting as its representative at any event
- >> Behave in a civilised manner on my way to and from school

AS A PARENT, I SHALL DO MY BEST/AGREE TO:

- >> Ensure as far as possible that my child attends school on time, every day
- >> Teach my child to accept and follow school rules and be polite and courteous to staff and other students
- >> Fully support the school's systems for rewards and sanctions.
- >> Speak to all school staff in a respectful manner
- >> Let the school know as soon as possible of absences and provide verbal or written explanation for the absence
- >> Avoid taking my child on holiday in school times wherever possible

- » Support my child's learning at home and at school
- » Sign the student planner to check on completion of homework and use it as a means of communication with school
- » Provide the proper uniform and equipment needed for school and make sure my child's appearance is appropriate
- » Make the school aware of any concerns or problems which might affect my child's work or behaviour
- » Attend Academic Tutoring and any other meeting relating to my child's progress
- » Celebrate the achievement, effort and success of my child.

AS A SCHOOL, WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT/AGREE TO:

- » Have high expectations for all students
- » Help students to reach their full potential
- » Check attendance and punctuality and inform parents as soon as possible of concerns
- » Teach and encourage students to follow school rules and be polite and courteous to staff and other students
- » Expect and when necessary, enforce high standards of behaviour so that no student can disrupt the education of others
- » Provide a balanced curriculum to give every child the best possible opportunity to develop his/her talents in every subject
- » Keep parents/carers informed about their child's progress and general school matters
- » Set appropriate work, homework and targets
- » Encourage students to make full use of their planners to record homework and other relevant information
- » Provide a safe and happy atmosphere in the school and ensure that all students are treated fairly
- » Be open and welcoming to parents and whenever possible, offer opportunities for them to become involved in the life of the school. A good first step is BHSA (Ballakermeen High School Association), our version of the PTA. Further details can be found on the school website: www.ballakermeen.com
- » Work with parents to solve any problems which could prevent student's progress

Thanks in anticipation of your support.



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