

## SCHOOL POLICIES AND STANDARDS

The School exists for the benefit of its pupils. All pupils, staff, parents and others associated with the School are required to work together in a spirit of co-operation and understanding. Pupils are actively encouraged to fulfil their potential academically, in sport, music, drama or any of the other activities of the School. Anyone who disrupts lessons and thus the education of others can expect to be dealt with firmly. Pupils and staff are expected to relate well and to behave considerately towards each other. We live in a society where social skills are vital to our well-being and learning to interact with others is, therefore, a critical part of education. Pupils are reminded of the importance of respecting others, whether inside or outside school. Selfish actions are therefore to be discouraged, whether these actions are of a minor nature (eg dropping litter or pushing in the lunch queue) or of a major nature (eg fighting, bullying, vandalism or theft). It is the duty of all associated with the School to have high expectations and to strive to uphold our reputation. It is to a great extent the measure by which we are all judged. A high standard of appearance is expected from all pupils and clothing must conform to the uniform regulations currently in force. The school expects the support of parents as it seeks to uphold these standards.

The School Code provides clear guidelines as to what is or is not acceptable but any breach of common sense or good manners, or anything which lowers the good name of the school is considered a breach of the School Code. In addition, we have well-defined policies towards particular areas of behaviour. The following guidelines are not exhaustive. Sanctions will be at a level that reflects the severity of the offence, the possible influence and effect on others and the maturity of the pupil.

**Disruption:** The school exists to educate pupils. Any pupil who persistently disrupts this purpose can expect to be dealt with firmly.

**Relationships:** Public displays of intimacy are not acceptable within the School. Pupils engaging in sexual activity on school premises can expect to be expelled.

**Bullying:** The Grove seeks to nurture a culture in which pupils are valued as people. When bullying is identified it is dealt with firmly and sensitively. If, once tackled, bullying problems persist, the School will reserve the right to exclude the bully from School.

**Theft:** Pupils should not bring valuables or significant amounts of money to school. Clothing and equipment should be clearly marked and care should be taken to lock away valuable equipment in the locker provided. If theft is detected, the sanctions may involve suspension or expulsion.

**Deliberate and accidental damage to property:** Pupils must understand the need for keeping all items of school furniture and equipment in use as long as possible. Obviously items will wear out with time, but a pupil who damages property will be expected to replace or repair his/her misdeeds - thus making a positive, rather than a negative contribution. Any damage must be reported immediately to the Head of Year or Second Master.

**Smoking:** The School disapproves of smoking. Smoking damages health, is a fire hazard and is a form of drug addiction. Sanctions for those who offend will be a Saturday Detention, in the first instance, and, for repeated offences, the School reserves the right to suspend pupils concerned.

**Drinking:** In inexperienced hands, alcohol is far more immediately dangerous than tobacco. Sanctions against those who have possession of, or who use, alcohol in School include suspension.

**Drug abuse:** Solvent abuse or the use or possession of illegal drugs will be regarded very seriously, particularly with regard to the possible influence on others. We will act strongly and expulsion will be likely for actions involving the use or possession of drugs. Any pupil who brings illegal drugs in to school with the intention of supplying others can expect to be expelled.

The Headmaster reserves the right to suspend pupils from attendance, or, in the last resort, to exclude them for persistent idleness, antagonism towards authority or any serious breach of discipline.