

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Solutions Focused Behaviour Management

When any parent signs their child up to go to a school, high on their agenda must be that it provides a safe, happy environment in which to learn. We do not want our children to have to battle for their education. The vast majority of our students do the right thing day in day out which is wonderful and should be commended. For others, there are issues with homework, punctuality, too much chatting, hardly new behaviours or crimes of the century but nonetheless important lessons to learn.

Sanctions should not be about punishment but about consequences and having the opportunity to understand these and resolve them in order not to repeat poor choices. It is about staff and students building strong relationships based on respect and responsibility, two of our core values. Therefore, we are making changes to our behaviour policy, specifically the sanctions.

Your children may already have come home and told you about our change of focus?

No homework

Homework is set for good reasons and therefore it is important for it to be completed and to a good standard. If a student has not handed in their homework an **after school detention** will be given, running from 2:45pm to 3:30pm. These will be held within department or faculty teams and therefore support will be available should they require it. If the student hands in the homework before the detention then they will not be required to stay. The objective is to get the homework completed, not to punish regardless. Clearly if meeting deadlines becomes an issue, we will discuss this with you. For a minority of cases, homework is rarely completed and therefore, 2 homework sessions run by the Year Leaders will become compulsory as a form of support.

Inconvenience

We want our classrooms to be an exciting learning environment where students support each other to take risks and learn. Students must understand that poor behaviour has consequences to all and if they cannot be resolved swiftly, may carry an inconvenience to the student. This will be down to the professional judgement of the teacher and may simply be a conversation after class or a phone call home to parents, or they may be asked to return to the teacher at break or lunchtime. All of these methods will focus on resolving the matter so that the student understands what behaviours have been unacceptable and what is required of them going forward. It may be necessary on some occasions to issue a formal lunchtime detention. Students/parents/carers will be notified of this and it will take place the following day if possible. The detention would be for 20 minutes of their lunchtime break to allow for students to go to the toilet and fill up water bottles etc. I would suggest a packed lunch on these occasions, although food will be available in the hub at break time.

All students will be expected to complete the sanction issued and should they choose not to parents will be informed and if necessary asked to come into school. The student will still be required to serve the original sanction. It will not be escalated to something they may prefer.

This is a big shift away from after school detentions which the students have told us themselves has little impact, to a more measured approach. If students are not to go from lesson to lesson, repeating the same mistakes, then there must be a willingness to take some responsibility in resolving the problem and being part of the solution.

Inclusion

Inclusions will be reserved for the more serious incidents and other intervention programmes maybe initiated as a result of an incident e.g. social media misuse may result in a 6 week after school programme educating in appropriate use and consequences/impact. Inclusions will continue to operate between 11am and 4pm with the last hour given over to community service.

Further Intervention

There will be some more complex cases where students find it much harder to manage their behaviour. In these cases we will be in close communication with you about methods we are using.

Community centred work

We want to focus on the positives. Our young people have always stepped up when doing charitable events but this year we want to do more than merely raise money, albeit in recent years for very worthy causes. We want to support our own local community, raising awareness amongst our student body and giving something back. Initial projects were launched in assemblies last week and there is an excitement which has rippled across school in what we are trying to achieve.

"I just can't stress it enough that it is an amazing thing to do and I am so proud that our school is doing such a good thing."

Year 9 student

Please keep an eye on our website and the newsletter for the latest developments on community projects.

If you have any questions regarding the changes or indeed are looking for support for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Gattward
Deputy Headteacher