

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY - PUPIL DISCIPLINE

(Originally approved by Governors 14.11.95)

(Revisions approved by Governors 01.07.03)

(Revisions approved by Governors 06.10.09)

It is the school's aim to educate its pupils in a happy and safe environment where common sense, mutual respect and shared responsibility ensure they feel secure and can realize their potential. In both the Senior and Junior School pupils are expected to maintain high standards of behaviour and conduct, at all times showing courtesy and respect for others through the promotion of self-discipline, consideration and honesty in a caring environment. In a world with few positive constants the school seeks to encourage across the whole age range a sense of community and pride in Stockport Grammar School. To that end it insists on the highest standards of dress and deportment.

At Stockport Grammar School and at Stockport Grammar Junior School positive reinforcement of such standards and expectations underpins a shared ethos which promotes at all times good behaviour inside and outside the classroom and the good reputation of the school in the wider world. Teachers, pupils and support staff have a collective responsibility to maintain and uphold this ethos at all times both inside and outside school.

The school has high standards of behaviour and endeavours to encourage good habits of work and behaviour from the moment a child enters the school. Punctual attendance at school and lessons is required.

All staff are expected to encourage good behaviour and respect for others in pupils, and to apply all rewards and sanctions fairly and consistently. Well planned, interesting and demanding lessons make a major contribution to good discipline. Heads of Departments are charged with using their best endeavours to ensure that programmes of study and the methodology used in the Department are well thought out and of a consistently high standard.

All staff are expected to promote self-discipline amongst pupils and to deal appropriately with any unacceptable behaviour. It is understood that there will be variations in staff acceptance and tolerance of pupils' behaviour in class depending on the nature of the class and content of the lesson, but behaviour which does not allow constructive teaching and learning is totally unacceptable and all staff have a duty to ensure that such behaviour is not tolerated.

Through regular discussions at staff meetings the School endeavours to ensure that all standards are applied consistently and fairly. Staff will also be involved in discussions with pupils in form/tutor group time.

The School Council will be involved in reviewing the school's anti-bullying policies and procedures and in the school's programmes to reinforce self-discipline and positive work and behaviour patterns.

Parents will be involved in discipline cases as appropriate. Individual staff should not involve parents in discipline issues without first informing the Head of Year, Head of Section or Proctor. Parents are also encouraged to support good behaviour and positive habits in their children.

All rewards and sanctions must be applied fairly and consistently and in accordance with the school's equal opportunities policy. A child will not be subject to disciplinary action where a failure to meet the school's requirements or contravention of rules is a direct consequence of that child's disability. None of the school's punishments will be degrading or humiliating.

Rewards

Wherever possible staff should use their own reward systems to encourage good behaviour.

The rewards used by the school include: the use of verbal praise, merit awards, letters of commendations, Headmaster's Commendation, prize awards.

Sanctions

Sanctions should be applied when rewards have failed, or where it is necessary in the circumstances to show appropriate disapproval. In accordance with the law there is no corporal punishment allowed by the school.

Teachers advise form tutors or class teachers of instances of misbehaviour and of any sanction imposed. Serious instances of misbehaviour should be referred to a Deputy Head who will take action as required and advise the Headmaster accordingly.

In the Senior School, the form tutor consults with the Head of Year and the Head of Section on behavioural and work-related issues where their involvement is considered necessary and beneficial. In the Junior School a breach of discipline may be referred to the class teacher, the Infant Co-ordinator, Deputy Head or Headmaster as necessary.

Where there is serious concern, the parents are informed and involved in the correction process so that the pupil is aware that school and home are working closely together in his or her best interests. Referral to parents is, in itself, considered a significant sanction and may be an effective deterrent.

The sanctions applied in both schools include the withdrawal of free time, separation from peers for a prescribed period and the withdrawal of privileges.

In the Senior School free time withdrawn is given over to community service, after-school detention or Saturday morning detention. Parents are informed if a pupil is required for detention.

A Senior School pupil may also be placed on daily report for behaviour, which should not be confused with the daily work report scheme. Where a pupil's work is unsatisfactory, teachers may require that work to be repeated, set impositions or detain pupils after school provided twenty four hours notice is given to parents.

In more extreme instances a pupil may be excluded from tuition or where the requirements of the school or its rules have been seriously contravened, the Headmaster has the power to suspend a pupil or to recommend to the Chairman of Governors that a pupil be expelled.

Where it is apparent that a pupil has become a constant source of frustration to subject teachers, form tutor, class teacher in the Junior school, the Head of Year, the Head of Section or a Deputy Head, the Headmaster may, having consulted with parents and previously issued three formal written warnings, recommend to the Chairman of Governors that that pupil be suspended forthwith and that such suspension lead to expulsion. Any formal warning may be rescinded if the pupil evinces sustained betterment.

The procedure for expulsion and any subsequent appeal is set out in a separate policy document. Further details on discipline approaches and procedures are given in the Senior and Junior School Staff Handbooks.