



Laurus Trust Secondary Schools

Parent/Carer Home School Agreement

This agreement sets out what the School, the Student and Parent/Carers will do to ensure that your child has the opportunity to achieve the highest possible educational standards and benefits from the opportunities available at their school. By acknowledging that you have read and understood this agreement you will indicate that you agree to support this partnership with your child and the staff at your child's school.

The Staff and Governors of your child's school will:

- Provide a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum which will challenge your child to achieve their potential;
- Ensure that teaching addresses your child's needs, progress will be regularly checked and where additional needs are identified these will be quickly addressed;
- Insist on high standards of behaviour and respect for other people and the environment;
- Ensure that through our pastoral system the welfare of your child is paramount and that appropriate communication is made where we have concerns;
- Provide a safe and secure environment at school;
- Provide many opportunities, including sport and cultural activities, for your child to succeed;
- Reward your child for success in the many different areas of school life;
- Provide you with a report of progress each term which will include information about attainment, effort, attendance and assessment results;
- Arrange one meeting a year for discussion between parents/carers and teachers regarding the progress being made by your child;
- Adhere to and follow Local Authority Safeguarding Procedures

Parent/Carer

As the parent/carers of my child I acknowledge and understand that:

- The main responsibility for my child's education rests with me by law;
- If my child fails to maintain an excellent attendance record the school will take appropriate action;
- I will attend meetings in school, if required, to discuss the progress and welfare of my child;
- The school will follow Local Authority directions regarding matters of safeguarding.

Furthermore, I **undertake** to do the following to the best of my ability:

- Give my full support to the school, supporting all sanctions that the school issues to my child, including detentions;
- Ensure that my child goes to school regularly, on time and properly equipped;
- Ensure the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour and uniform are met;
- Attend all parents' evenings and information evenings at the school;
- Read reports sent by the school and take appropriate action;
- Provide suitable conditions and support for my child's Preparation, Practice and Retrieval (PP& R);
- Make the school aware of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour.

I acknowledge that:

- Attendance is a vital component of a student's academic success. I will not take my child/children on holiday during term time. I accept that school will only authorise holidays in term time in the most exceptional of circumstances e.g. bereavement, immediate family wedding. The school will normally inform Education Welfare Services and issue Education Penalty Notices if more than 10 sessions are missed.

Also, from September 2015, we have been informed that children with attendance below 90% will be classed as having persistent absence; this will mean they will be closely monitored by the school, the Local Authority and the Department for Education.

Advice for Parents/Carers on Student Suspension/Exclusion from School

No Head of School likes to suspend a student from school, but there may be times when this is considered necessary. If your child has been suspended it means that your child will not be allowed to attend school because of the difficulties that have arisen concerning a serious breach of conduct. The evidence required to suspend will need to meet the 'civil standard' of proof i.e. on the balance of probability, it is more likely than not that the student was responsible for the breach of school discipline.

The school will follow the local authority guidance on suspensions.

Fixed period suspension

A child who seriously breaches the School's Behaviour Policy can be suspended for a fixed period of time. Schools can suspend a child if:

- they have seriously breached the School's Behaviour Policy
- allowing them to stay in school would seriously harm their education or welfare, or the education or welfare of other students

Your child cannot be given fixed period (non-permanent) suspensions which total more than 45 school days in any one school year.

We will make every effort to contact you on the day a suspension is given and follow up with a letter including information on:

- the period and reason for suspension;
- your duty during the first five days of any suspension to ensure that your child is not present in a public place during normal school hours, whether in the company of a parent/carer or not;
- any arrangements made by us that apply from the sixth day of the suspension.

Permanent exclusions

The Head of School will usually only permanently exclude a student as a last resort, after trying to improve the student's behaviour through other means. However, there are exceptional circumstances in which a Head of School may decide to permanently exclude a student for a 'one-off' offence.

If your child has been permanently excluded, be aware that:

- the school's governing body is required to review the Head of School's decision and you may meet with them to explain your views on the exclusion;
- if the governing body approves the exclusion, you can appeal to an independent appeal panel organised by the local authority;
- we must explain in a letter how to lodge an appeal;
- we will work in partnership with other Stockport schools to provide full time education for any student from the sixth day onwards until the suspension ends;
- the local authority must provide full-time education from the sixth day of a permanent exclusion.

Serious Incidents

Below is a list of incidents which could lead to suspension from school:

- Physical assault against a student including fighting
- Physical assault against an adult
- Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour against a student
- Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour against an adult
- Instigating violence by involving other people, not necessarily from the school community, in disputes with other students
- Involvement with fireworks
- Bullying
- Racist abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Theft
- Damaging property
- Serious challenges to authority
- Persistent disruption of learning
- Serious breaches of the ICT code of conduct
- Deliberate misuse of the fire alarm will result in a permanent exclusion
- Drug and alcohol related incidents – this may include the abuse of a legal substance
- Dealing with drugs at school will result in a permanent exclusion
- Repeated use of drugs or alcohol may result in a permanent exclusion
- Possession of a weapon, including replica weapons
- Misuse of medication
- Misuse of aerosols
- Misuse of electronic equipment
- Making malicious allegations against a member of staff
- Inciting others to breach the school rules
- Inciting others to commit a violent act
- Behaviour that endangers themselves or others
- Behaviour which brings the school into disrepute and tarnishes the reputation of the school, even if this behaviour occurs outside of school time/hours
- It would be treated as a serious incident if any student inappropriately recorded/filmed any of the above incidents taking place
- Behaviour that causes great anxiety or upset to others (even if this was intended as a joke)

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

It should be noted that the school's behaviour policy and associated sanctions, including suspension, apply to all aspects of school life including extra-curricular activities, the journey to and from school and other out of school incidents may be considered if the Head of School believes that they will have a serious impact within school. This would include behaviour which brings the school into disrepute or tarnishes the reputation of the school.