



SIMON LANGTON

Grammar School for Boys

Discipline and Behaviour Policy

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Simon Langton School Discipline and Behaviour Policy

Expectations

Students are fortunate to gain a place at the Langton and we believe that their behaviour should reflect this. We expect behaviour at all times to be courteous and mindful of the needs and rights of the rest of the community. Behaviour in lessons should be studious and attentive and behaviour in unstructured time should be civilized. When representing the school, or travelling to and from school, we expect behaviour to be of a similarly immaculate standard. Our expectations are in line with the laws of the country and the Langton Code of Conduct. The overwhelming majority of our students find it easy to conform to these expectations.

Sanctions

Where students fail to live up to our expectations, the school reserves the right to impose sanctions in line with government guidance and the professional judgement of senior staff.

For unnecessary lateness to school, failure to bring the appropriate equipment to a lesson or failure to complete academic work a detention will normally be imposed. This will usually take place at break or lunchtime, but may be for longer periods after school. If a student is to be detained after school, parents should receive notification 24 hours in advance. It is acceptable for the student to take responsibility for notifying his parents in this circumstance.

In our classrooms we operate a three strikes system for dealing with minor discipline problems. The three strikes system has a clear set of guidelines and it is the responsibility of every student as well as all members of staff to be aware of and adhere to these guidelines. At the Langton we define classroom misbehaviour as *any action which prevents a teacher from teaching or a student from learning*. A few examples of unacceptable behaviour would include:

- Failing to follow clear instructions
- Calling out
- Using a mobile 'phone without permission
- Any form of rudeness to a teacher, another adult or a student
- Chatting to others while a teacher is talking or when expected to work in silence

A first strike is a formal verbal warning that will be recorded on the school's PARS system. Continued misbehaviour or arguing will receive a second strike and the student will be asked

to move. A third strike will result in the student being sent from the classroom to Mr Peto; this will usually result in a period of isolation. Repeated three strikes incursions will result in a fixed term exclusion.

In rare circumstances a student's behaviour may be of a much more serious nature and the student should be sent straight to the Head of School's office.

Where behaviour outside of the classroom falls below the school's expectations, the school will impose sanctions in line with government guidelines. Unacceptable behaviour is anything which might be regarded as anti-social and could include pushing and shoving in the corridors or lunch queues, dropping litter, smoking on the school premises, rudeness towards adults or other students, the use of bad language, unkindness or bullying. We do not necessarily accept a definition of bullying which insists it has to be repeated behaviour.

Poor behaviour may result in a student serving time in the school's Isolation Room, either as a punishment or while an incident is being investigated. This will be for a fixed period of time and the student will be supervised by staff and work will be set.

For more serious breaches of expectations the school will apply a fixed term exclusion for a period at the school's discretion. Normally this will be for a serious disciplinary offence, or repetition of offences, but may also be for a serious criminal offence outside the school's jurisdiction. Possession and/or use

of illegal drugs on the school site or violent conduct will always result in an exclusion.

Permanent exclusion may be recommended for serious or repeated breaches of the school's behavioural expectations. There may be exceptional circumstances in which the decision to exclude is in response to a first or one off offence. Such circumstances include:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another student or member of staff
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Dealing or supplying an illegal drug
- Carrying an offensive weapon (Any fixed blade including a craft knife).

In deciding what action to take in response to an incident the standard of proof to be applied is the balance of probabilities, i.e. if it is more probable that the student did what he or she is alleged to have done the school may exclude the student. This is not the same as proof.

In serious circumstances the school's staff may use reasonable force to control or restrain students. "Reasonable force" in these circumstances means using no more force than is needed. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between students or blocking a student's path, or active physical contact such as leading a student by the arm out of a lesson. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a student under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances. School staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. Examples of appropriate use of reasonable force would include:

- Removing disruptive students from the classroom if they have refused to follow an instruction to do so
- Preventing students behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or visit
- Preventing a student from attacking another student or member of staff
- Restraining a student at risk of harming themselves

Senior staff have the power to use reasonable force to search students and their belongings for knives, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco, fireworks or pornographic images.

Whereas the Sixth Form are not bound by the three strikes approach to lessons we, necessarily, expect the same high levels from our most senior students and role models. Sanctions concerning behaviour outside the classroom do relate to the Sixth Form and those who bring motor vehicles to school are bound to operate within the confines of the Highway Code.

For criminal activity on the school site, we reserve the right to request the aid and support of the police.

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