



Policy Title: School Policies and Standards	Reviewed: AMC
School Section: Whole	Reviewer: Dec 2023
Audience: Staff, Pupils and Parents	Revision: 1.5

## SCHOOL POLICIES AND STANDARDS (Pupils)

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 (e.g. dropping litter or pushing in the lunch queue) or of a major nature (e.g. 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 excluded.

**Bullying:** Woodhouse Grove School seeks to nurture a culture in which pupils are valued as people. In line with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy, 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 exclusion.

**Trading:** The buying and/or selling of any articles by pupils on school premises is not allowed.

### Prohibited Items

Prohibited items in school include the following items;

- knives and weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items; tobacco and cigarette papers, vapes and e-cigarettes, fireworks and pornographic images



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- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been or is likely to be used:
  - ❖ to commit an offence, or
  - ❖ to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).

**Inappropriate use of social media:** All pupils should ensure that they do not refer to the School, members of staff, other pupils or parents (or former pupils and parents) in a defamatory or inflammatory way on any form of social media including sharing items in “private” groups. Pupils should recognise that their internet footprint can prove to be damaging both to friends, family and school, and any item posted or shared (written or photographic) that brings the School’s name into disrepute may lead to exclusion from the School.

**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 their misdeeds – thus making a positive, rather than a negative contribution. Any damage must be reported immediately to a Head of Year/Assistant Head or Deputy Head.

**Smoking:** The School disapproves of smoking (including the use of e-cigarettes, vapes etc). Sanctions for those who offend will be appropriate and proportionate, and in line with School’s Smoking Policy. If smoking/vaping has taken place **outside** the school buildings, the pupil is entered into a Saturday Detention. Repeat offences will lead to suspension.

If smoking/vaping has taken place **inside** the school buildings, the pupil will be externally suspended for two days.

For repeated offences, the School reserves the right to suspend or permanently exclude pupils concerned.

**Drinking:** In inexperienced hands, alcohol can be more immediately dangerous than tobacco. Sanctions against those who have possession of, or who use, alcohol in School, will be appropriate and proportionate.

In considering sanctions for alcohol offences the School will take into account any instances of drinking or other major contraventions of school rules by the pupil in the recent past.

If a pupil is caught consuming or suspected of consuming alcohol, is in possession of, or is found in the company of another pupil who is, then disciplinary action will be taken.

If a pupil is found to be guilty of supplying alcohol to others, in the most severe cases they could be permanently excluded.

Depending on the nature of the offences, the Headmaster will be informed and will have the full range of sanctions at his disposal.

**Drug abuse:** Solvent abuse or the use or possession of illegal drugs, including substances known as legal highs, 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 or legal highs into school with the intention of supplying others can expect to be excluded.

The School reserves the right to test any pupil who they suspect may be under the influence of drugs.

## SUSPENSION

The Headmaster reserves the right to suspend pupils from attendance for persistent idleness,



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antagonism towards authority, or any serious breach of discipline.

### **EXPULSION**

The Headmaster reserves the right to suspend pupils from attendance, or in the last resort, recommend to the Chairman of Governors that a pupil be permanently excluded from school for serious breaches of school discipline. Pupils and their parents will have the right of appeal against this decision to a panel of Governors. This will be restricted to very serious breaches of discipline (e.g., drugs) and persistent/sustained abuse of routine schools standards and expectations.