

# **Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust**



## **Behaviour Policy**

**Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust Wide Policy**

**December 2023**

### Document Control

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## Contents

1. [Foreword to the policy](#)
2. [Rights and responsibilities](#)
3. [Standards of behaviour](#)
4. [School rules that apply at all times to students](#)
5. [Rewards](#)
6. [Sanctions](#)
7. [Drugs](#)
8. [Alcohol](#)
9. [Offensive weapons and other prohibited items](#)
10. [Searching, Screening and Confiscation of prohibited items](#)
11. [Power to use reasonable force](#)
12. [Regulating students offsite conduct](#)
13. [Malicious allegations](#)
14. [Training](#)
15. [Hairstyles, jewellery and make-up expectations](#)

## **1. Foreword to policy**

This policy has been written in conjunction with the guidance from the Department for Education (click [here](#)) and the Equality Act 2010. This policy should also be used in conjunction with the trust's SEND policy. The trust believes that all students should be aware of the standard of behaviour that is expected of them, and takes responsibility for promoting these standards. We hope that by encouraging positive behaviour patterns we can promote good relationships throughout the schools built on trust and understanding, and that through the use of this policy we can support all our students in developing a high level of social awareness. Our aim is to ensure that all our students leave school with the key skills they need to continue to progress to the best of their ability in all areas of life. The trust will make reasonable adjustments for students with SEND and we will have due regard to the Equality Act 2010.

## **2. Rights and responsibilities**

All members of the trust community (governors, staff, students, parents/carers) have rights and responsibilities in ensuring an orderly climate for learning. Teachers and all persons acting on behalf of the trust have statutory authority to discipline students whose behaviour is unacceptable, who break the school rules or fail to follow a reasonable instruction (Section 91 Education and Inspections Act 2006). We believe it is the right of every individual to learn within a safe and orderly environment, which is free from disruption, violence, bullying and any form of harassment, thereby ensuring our environment promotes equality and fairness for all. The Home-School Agreement for each school summarises the basic requirements and each school's expectations. The signing of the Home-School Agreement signifies commitment to and acceptance of the principles and details of this behaviour policy. It is the responsibility of everyone in school to act pleasantly with courtesy and consideration to others in lessons, during break and lunch times and at all other times. This applies to the journey to and from school as well as on school premises and when representing the school in any way. Sanctions (including suspension and exclusion) will be applied if students fail to adhere to the expectations of the policy.

## **3. Standards of behaviour**

Students should show respect to one another, to school staff, and to anyone else they may meet. Incidents of bullying, denigration, or bringing intentional harm to other students or staff will not be tolerated. Students are ambassadors to our schools even when off school premises, and we expect them to act accordingly. They are expected to obey school rules, listen, follow instructions by staff, and accept and learn from any sanctions that they receive. Students should choose to accept their basic classroom rights by:

- accepting responsibility for their own behaviour;
- being courteous and well mannered;
- allowing others to make progress by behaving appropriately;
- being respectful to others and choosing not to swear, tease, name call or put others down;
- following the instructions of staff without question or argument;

- ensuring that they arrive punctually to their lessons appropriately dressed, well equipped and ready to work.

School work and homework should be well presented, completed to a high standard, and handed in on time. Failure to hand in work on time will lead to disciplinary sanctions. If students are struggling to meet the requirements of their workload for any reason, they should discuss this with a member of staff.

Under no circumstances should students be in possession of illegal or inappropriate items, and all students will respect and look after the school premises and environment. The following behaviours are regarded as completely unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions.

- being in possession of or supplying illegal drugs (see section 7)
- misuse of other substances (including but not limited to use of legal highs)
- being in possession of an offensive weapon and other items which could cause harm to others (see section 9)
- arson
- verbal abuse to staff and others
- verbal abuse to students
- physical abuse to/attack on staff
- physical abuse to/attack on students
- actions which cause harm to others
- indecent behaviour
- damage to property
- smoking, including vaping
- theft
- serious actual or threatened violence against another student or a member of staff
- sexual abuse or assault
- defamatory comments on social media about members of staff (such as on TikTok) and the school community
- unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the student's behaviour
- continued defiance regarding the wearing of school uniform

Staff will encourage positive behaviour for learning by:

- being a positive role model for students, to encourage respect and consideration for others and pride in their appearance;
- ensuring that students feel safe and respected in their classroom;
- encouraging high standards of student behaviour in their classrooms;
- following the Behaviour Policy consistently;
- following the behaviour management route, ensuring that students feel safe and respected;
- praising students appropriately and encouraging achievement through the rewards system.

#### **4. School rules that apply at all times to students**

- a. Always be on time.
- b. Keep your appearance smart and tidy, and wear your school uniform at all times to and from school.
- c. Rude, derogatory, racist, homophobic, transphobic or defamatory language will not be tolerated.
- d. Be considerate of your peers and the extended community. Do not run through hallways and corridors, do not shout out during lessons, or shout to one another in hallways, or when in public places and follow any one-way system the school may have.
- e. Be polite and respectful at all times. This applies to staff, other students, any visitors to the school, and to members of the general public.
- f. Take care of your environment, both on the school site and outside, and keep it tidy. Do not litter and do not vandalise property in any way.
- g. Unauthorised absence from school will not be tolerated.
- h. Health and safety equipment is only for use in emergency situations and should not be tampered with under any circumstances.
- i. Disobeying staff is not tolerated.
- j. Do not bring to school or be in possession of prohibited items as listed in section 6.
- k. Chewing gum is not allowed.
- l. Material that is inappropriate or illegal for children to have, such as racist or pornographic material.
- m. For mobile phones, see the individual school's Mobile Phone policy.
- n. Anti-social behaviour will be logged as a Social Strike. Three Social Strikes will lead to three lunchtime detentions. Failure to attend at lunch will incur an immediate after school detention on the same day.
- o. Gambling and profiteering are not allowed on school property.
- p. Bringing large amounts of cash to school is not advised. The trust operates a cashless, online system for payment of school lunches and trips, so where possible this should be used.

#### **5. Rewards**

The trust's ethos of encouragement is central to the promotion of desirable behaviour in our schools. Rewards are an integral means of achieving this. They have a motivational role in helping students to realise that desirable behaviour, self-awareness and responsibility to self and others is valued, and are clearly defined in the procedures. Rewards may include:

- Praise, both formal and informal, which has a key part to play in our reward systems and students are routinely praised in class and in more formal occasions such as weekly, top tracker and end of term assemblies.
- Positive points for a whole range of positive outcomes and behaviours, whether it be in learning, standards of attendance and punctuality or in showing thought/care for others.

- Positive phone calls/emails home are routinely made to acknowledge positive effort, commitment and contribution.
- Termly reward trips for students with positive attendance, behaviour and effort.
- Inter-House competitions and events.
- Postcards, emails and letters home to acknowledge and congratulate success.
- Celebrating student successes through positive local press coverage and social media.
- Opportunities to become part of the student leadership team.

## 6. Sanctions

Sanctions will range depending on the severity and regularity of the offence. Students will receive an explanation as to why the sanction is being applied and what changes in behaviour are required to avoid future sanctions. The procedures make a clear distinction between the sanctions applied for minor and major offences. Where possible, prior to any sanction being issued all solution focused strategies will have been actioned.

Sanctions are broadly scaled so that low-level issues receive lighter-touch sanctions but the more serious situations become, more severe sanctions will be applied. The following list of sanctions is not exhaustive nor is the list in full priority order:

- verbal warning and/or reprimand.
- time-out of lesson, removal from the lesson.
- detention (break, lunch time or afterschool).
- work in Inclusion.
- parents/carers informed or invited in to discuss.
- appropriate monitoring put in place through a report system, such as students being placed on report for monitoring of behaviour at subject, form or whole school level.
- loss of break and lunchtime breaks.
- loss of privileges e.g. removal from the ICT network for a fixed period or permanently if used inappropriately.
- after-school detentions. Where possible we will give 24 hours' notice, but there is no legal obligation to do so and in some instances we would expect them to be served immediately. We aim to work in partnership with home, but parental/carer consent is not required in order for detentions to be served. If detentions are missed for no good reason the time period will be increased.
- community service (e.g. littering will be addressed by the student litter picking).
- students being located in other classes/year groups for a temporary period .
- students paying for repairs if causing deliberate damage.
- confiscation of inappropriate items (e.g. make-up, jewellery, mobile phones, cigarettes and e-cigarettes etc.) where the student is using this in contravention of the school rules. Confiscated items will be kept secure and either returned to the student or parent/carer at the school's discretion or disposed of.
- possible police involvement for serious issues of physical harm, threat, theft or damage, drug abuse issues.

- suspension.
- permanent exclusion from school.

Wherever possible, the purpose of sanctions is to address the negative issue and constructively rectify it. Where appropriate, the school adopts a restorative approach to addressing misdemeanours and infringements of school expectations.

Inclusion: this means a student will be removed from lessons for a period of time and supervised in another part of the school with a loss of social time.

Suspension means a student will not be allowed in school for a fixed period and will be given work to do at home. A student on a suspension may not be in a public area during school hours. If this legal requirement is breached parents may be fined. Students can be given suspensions for up to 45 days in any one academic year. When this happens, students will be permanently excluded and placed in an alternative education setting. For suspensions longer than 5 days, an alternative education establishment will be sought from the 6th day and attendance is compulsory.

Permanent exclusion means a student will no longer be able to attend their school and therefore they will be allocated education provision by the Local Authority. As per the guidance from the Department for Education, a decision to exclude a student permanently should only be taken:

- in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
- where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the school.

All exclusions are recorded on a child's educational record.

## 7. Drugs

The trust has a zero-tolerance approach to illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia. Students will be permanently excluded if they use, supply or are in possession of illegal substances on or off school premises. Drug-related incidents outside of school which could bring the school into disrepute may also lead to permanent exclusion and will be reported to the police.

**Prescription drugs:** Carrying, supplying or taking prescription drugs illegitimately could result in a permanent exclusion and will be referred to the police.

**Non-prescription drugs:** Some over-the-counter drugs can be harmful if misused. We advise that students should not carry these in school.

**Medication:** We are aware that it may be necessary for some students to take medication during the school day. Parents should make the school aware of this in writing as soon as their child starts taking the medication. All medication should be kept in the school office for safe-keeping.

## 8. Alcohol



Consuming, carrying or supplying alcohol is strictly prohibited. Any student involved in any alcohol-related activity may be permanently excluded.

## **9. Offensive weapons and other prohibited items**

Section 7.1 of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 lists the legal definition of articles classed as offensive weapons. There is no reason to possess any article in school which could be used as a potential weapon and cause harm. In order to ensure our school communities are safe, any student who is in possession of such items will be permanently excluded. School will also report the incident to the police. In addition to items listed in section 7.1 of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, the following items are also prohibited (this is not an exhaustive list and school is the final arbiter):

- a. bladed articles; these are any knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe, or other article with a blade or sharp point and which is made or adapted to use for causing injury to a person.
- b. bladed products (this is a new term introduced in the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 and is intended to cover a subset of bladed articles and it means an article with a blade that is capable of causing a serious injury to a person which involves cutting that person's skin).
- c. corrosives; section 5.3 of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 permits the police (if they receive a report from school, a parent or student) to search school premises and individuals on the basis that they have reasonable grounds that an offence has been or will be committed.
- d. knuckle dusters.
- e. truncheon.
- f. death stars.
- g. toy or replica guns.
- h. any other item which could be used as a potential weapon.

## **10. Searching, screening and confiscation of prohibited items**

Click [here](#) for the national guidance from the Department for Education which we adhere to. We reserve the right to confiscate, retain or dispose of items in the possession of students that are illegal or banned by the trust. Staff will not be held liable for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items provided they have acted lawfully and reasonably.

The headteacher and authorised staff (members of the Senior Leadership Team, Houseleaders and the SENCO) can search a student or their possessions for any item with or without student consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. If required, the police may be called to help with the search, and if the student does not give permission for the search or makes a search impossible due to their behaviour, then this may result in a permanent exclusion due to the school's inability to guarantee the health and safety of everyone in the school. Prohibited items are (this is not an exhaustive list):

- offensive weapons (see section 9).

- alcohol.
  - illegal drugs.
  - "legal highs".
  - stolen items.
  - tobacco, cigarettes, cigarette papers, vapes.
  - fireworks, bangers or anything considered to be an explosive.
  - pornographic images (see Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy).
  - 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, the property of, any person (including the student).
  - weapons and knives and extreme or child pornography will be handed to the police.
- Otherwise it is for the school to decide if and when to return an item, or whether to dispose of it.

The Education Act 2011 allows for staff seizing an electronic device to examine any data or files on the device if they think there is good reason to do so. These data or files may be erased before returning the item if they believe there is good reason to do this.

Any cigarettes, tobacco or smoking related items confiscated at school will be destroyed.

## **11. Power to use reasonable force**

Members of staff have the power to use reasonable force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent students committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

The headteacher and authorised school staff (members of the Senior Leadership Team, Houseleaders and the SENCO) may also use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for prohibited items. The trust does not encourage the use of force and it will be used very rarely in special circumstances. There is no definition of when it is reasonable to use force, and every situation will have to be judged by the person in charge at that time. The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

All staff in the trust have the authority to use force when reasonable, and this extends to any other person to whom the headteacher has given the responsibility to be in charge or in control of the students. Staff can also use this power when they are lawfully in charge of students but off the school premises - i.e. on a school trip.

Following serious incidents involving the use of force, the school will speak to the parents concerned. Such serious incidents involving the use of force will also be recorded by the school.

## **12. Regulating students offsite conduct**

Students who are caught or known to have been misbehaving on the way to or from school, or near the school premises, will be disciplined by the school. This also applies to students who break school conduct rules during work experience, school trips, placements at other educational establishments, or extended school activities such as sports events, or any event where poor behaviour might jeopardise the chances of future students participating.

### **13. Malicious allegations**

If there is sufficient evidence to disprove an allegation against a member of staff or student and there has been a deliberate act to deceive or cause harm to the person subject to the allegation, then an appropriate sanction will be applied from the range listed in section 6. A referral to Children's Social Care may also be appropriate to understand if there is a safeguarding reason why the false allegation was made.

### **14. Training**

The Board of Trustees will ensure that appropriate high quality training on all aspects of behaviour management is provided to support the implementation of the policy.

### **15. Hairstyles, jewellery and make-up expectations**

- Hair colouring is not allowed, nor are extreme hairstyles (shaved head, tramlines etc.). Long hair must be tied back in practical lessons. For short hairstyles a no.2 cut is the shortest permissible. The school is the final arbiter of what is permitted.
- Jewellery must not be worn apart from a watch. No piercings are permitted.
- Make-up is not allowed apart from year 11 where discrete make-up is permitted (school will be the final arbiter regarding this where there is disagreement).
- Nail varnish and any form of false nails are not permitted.
- False eye lashes and fake-tan is not permitted.
- The school uniform should be worn by all students in year 7 through to year 11. Students who do not comply with our uniform policy will receive appropriate sanctions. Any students who continue to breach uniform rules will be placed in Inclusion. until the issue is rectified. A meeting with the school's Governors and parents may also be established to address the issue.