

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Ruskin Community High School aims for a community in which students feel a sense of belonging and responsibility. The school believes that it is important to create an environment in which staff can teach and students can learn. Values of respect, fairness and inclusion are the basis of this policy. The school values good behaviour and seeks to create systems which will minimise and appropriately address all forms of unacceptable behaviour.

To do this we must provide a physically safe environment and one where people feel emotionally secure and where learning is valued. Fair, firm and consistent discipline is essential. We must insist on the following of the School Rules and Code of Conduct which will establish a school atmosphere and ethos which will enable the students to develop their aptitude and potential to the full.

Aims:

- to encourage a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in every student
- to encourage a caring and orderly environment where learning can take place
- to strengthen the partnership between home and school for the benefit of the students

All students have the following rights:

- to be taught and learn without distractions and disruptions
- to respect and fair treatment of themselves and their property
- to feel safe and valued in school and to and from school.

Students and staff have the right:

- to be treated with respect
- to be listened to
- to be treated politely
- to receive recognition for their achievements

In having such rights it is important that all members of the school community are responsible for:

- respecting other students and adults
- not being involved in the bullying of any members of the school community including malicious accusations against school staff
- being polite, kind and considerate
- praising each other

Expectations of the school to promote good behaviour are:

- to provide a safe school environment
- to provide a full, balanced and appropriate curriculum
- to respect each student as an individual
- educate each student to fulfil his/her potential
- provide information about student progress and offer regular meetings with parents

Expectations of parents are:

- to encourage a positive attitude to school and a high standard of behaviour, in accordance with school policy
- to ensure their children attend school regularly and punctually, with appropriate uniform and equipment
- to ensure that the school is notified of any absence by telephone and that it is confirmed in writing with the student's return
- to inform the school about any issues or concerns that might affect performance at school
- Insisting upon high standards of uniform, behaviour and discipline to and from school

Expectations of students are:

- to follow the 'School Rules' and 'Code of Conduct'
- to be polite and co-operative at all times
- to dress in the appropriate school uniform
- to attend school regularly and punctually
- to move about the school in an orderly manner
- to treat all members of the school with respect
- to follow the procedures in the Anti-bullying Policy
- not to bring cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or weapons to school
- to behave responsibly on their journey to and from school and when representing the school

The School Rules are posted in all classrooms and are in the school planner. The Code of Conduct is in the planner.

Rewarding positive behaviour:

It is important to acknowledge good achievement, positive behaviour and regular attendance.

- All staff are expected to praise students with frequent use of encouraging language in lessons and around school so that positive behaviour and regular attendance is recognised.
- Notice boards celebrate students' successes.
- Students are often rewarded during support week.
- The school Newsletter includes reports of positive achievements throughout the school.
- There are termly rewards to recognise achievement, behaviour and attendance.

Efforts are made to create a climate where praise and encouragement outweigh sanctions and punishments.

Sanctions:

Effective sanctions are designed to promote positive behaviour and attendance. It should be made clear to a student when his/her behaviour is unacceptable, not the person. Whole group sanctions that punish the innocent as well as the guilty should be avoided. Staff must follow the behaviour procedures for unacceptable behaviour and poor attitude.

All members of staff are encouraged, where possible, to give students a choice when they are engaging in undesirable behaviour. They can do as the teacher asks and comply with school rules or face the consequences. The behaviour procedures for staff indicate which behaviours are referred to which people and possible sanctions.

Alternative provision is a possible sanction that the school may use as well as exclusions and the sanctions available in school.

See: Exclusion of Students - School Policy and Guidelines and Students at Risk of Exclusion

Detentions:

Students may be detained during breaks and lunchtimes (unless the child goes home for lunch) with the proviso that time is allowed for them to eat lunch and visit the toilet.

Break and after school detentions are issued for students who are late to school.

Parents will be notified on the day if a pupil is required to attend a detention of up to 15 minutes after school.

The school will give at least 24 hour's notice of an after school detention lasting longer than 15 minutes.

Bullying:

see the: Anti-bullying Policy

Exclusion of Students – School Policy and Guidelines and Students at Risk of Exclusion

Disciplinary action will be taken against pupils who have been found to make malicious accusations against school staff.

Racist Incidents:

see Procedures for Staff and as above

Ruskin Community High School is an ethnically and culturally diverse community, where nearly 15% of students are from ethnic minorities and may have English as an additional language. The school recognises that all members of its community, students, parents and staff, have the right to be treated with equal respect.

Racism includes all practices and procedures that discriminates against people because of their race, colour, nationality and national or ethnic origins including religion and language.

Racist incidents will be investigated by the school and can take numerous forms:

- verbal abuse and threatening behaviour – derogatory name calling, insults, racist jokes, threats, racist language
- racist comments – ridicule of an individual's cultural differences
- physical assault because of colour, race or ethnicity
- racist graffiti
- discriminatory behaviour – refusal to co-operate with others due to ethnic origin
- incitement to behave in a racist manner

Issues of race and racism are taught in a structured and progressive way to all students through the PSICHE programme.

Students are reminded in assemblies of the school's policy on Racist Incidents and the likely consequence of such behaviour.

Drugs related incidents

Ruskin Community High School has a duty of care for the education, safety and well-being of all its students.

The use of tobacco and alcohol are prohibited at all times in and around the vicinity of the school.

The use of tobacco and alcohol will result in the disciplining of students depending on the persistence and the severity of the behaviour.

Ruskin Community High School in its duty of care will protect its students from the dangers of an illicit drug culture. There is no reason why any student should come into contact with drugs whilst at school. The school will act firmly in incidents related to drugs.

Students who are involved in dealing in the supply or exchange of drugs will be permanently excluded.

The possession of drugs (non prescription and prescription not prescribed to the child) could lead to permanent exclusion.

The police may be informed in all cases where reasonable suspicion of possession or use of illegal substances has taken place. The school may take advice from the LEA and the Cheshire Healthy Schools Partnership.

see policy on Illegal Drugs, Solvent Misuse and Drugs Education

Student Behaviour outside school

The behaviour policy will be applied to all students:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school related activity or
- Travelling to or from school or
- Wearing school uniform or
- In some ways identifiable as a student of Ruskin Community High School

The policy will also be applied to poor behaviour at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, that:

- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- Poses a threat to another student or member of the public or

- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school. In addition, behaviour that may be criminal will be reported to the police.

Restraint Policy

The use of reasonable force should always be a last resort for teachers and support staff.

Restraint can be carried out in school using reasonable force. Reasonable force can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight, or restraining a pupil to prevent violence or injury.

Force cannot be used as a punishment.

When reasonable force can be used:

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or causing disorder.

The decision to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the member of staff concerned and should always depend on individual circumstances.

Examples of situations where members of staff may use reasonable force are:

- Preventing a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil or to stop a fight in the playground.
- Preventing a pupil from hurting themselves.

The power of reasonable force applies to any member of staff at the school.

The school will notify parents when a serious incident involving force has taken place involving their child.

Searching and confiscation:

SLT can search a student for any item banned under the school rules if the student agrees.

A female member of staff must search a female student with another female present.

A male member of staff must search a male student with another male member of staff present.

The school must have reasonable grounds for suspecting a student is in possession of a prohibited item before searching (items that can be searched for are knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items).

The school can confiscate any banned or prohibited item found as a result of this search or which the school considers harmful or detrimental to school discipline. Prohibited items include inappropriate items or clothing and jewellery, items brought into school for the purpose of selling to make a profit (including items bought in such a manner), cigarettes, tobacco and other smoking related items, knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items and any other items that may endanger the health and safety of others.

Mobile Phones:

Pupils are not allowed Mobile phones in school. If a member of staff see`s or hears a mobile phone in a lesson it will be confiscated and handed to the main school office for safe keeping. A parent will be required to collect the phone from the main school office at the end of the school day. Otherwise students will be required to wait until after school on Friday.

Searching with consent:

The school does not need to have formal written consent from a student for this sort of search – it is enough for the SLT member to ask the student to turn out his/her pockets and for the teacher to look in the student's bag if the student agrees.

If a student refuses to cooperate with a search then it is like a student refusing to stay in for a detention or stop unacceptable behaviour so the school can apply an appropriate disciplinary penalty.

The SLT can only undertake a search without consent if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student may have in his or her possession a prohibited item. SLT must decide what constitutes reasonable grounds for suspicion, for example noticing a student behaving in a way that causes them to be suspicious or overhearing students talking.

Searches can only be carried out on the school premises or on a trip where staff have lawful control or charge of students.

During the search:

Extent of search is clothes, possessions, desks and lockers.

What the law says: The person conducting the search may not require the student to remove any clothing other than outer clothing.

'Outer clothing' means clothing that is not worn next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear but 'outer clothing' includes hats, shoes, boots, gloves and scarves.

'Possessions' means any goods over which the student has or appears to have control - this includes desks, lockers and bags.

A student's possessions can only be searched in the presence of the student and another member of staff.

If a student does not consent to a search or withdraws consent having signed a consent form then it is possible to conduct a search of the student's possessions if thought to have a prohibited item.