

THE SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL

Home School Agreement

The Home School Agreement is an opportunity for all key stakeholders, that is pupils, parents/carers and staff to understand the part they should be playing to ensure all pupils succeed at all levels. Parents/carers and pupils will receive a copy at the beginning of every academic year or when they join mid-year. Staff also receive a copy at the beginning of every academic year.

All pupils will be taught about the Behaviour Policy when they join the school. They are reminded of its principles, purpose and routines regularly throughout the academic year explicitly through assemblies. When we discuss our expectations with regard to behaviour we will frame it in terms of pupils being:

- Ready for learning;
- Respectful in their behaviours;
- Safe in their actions.

You will see the expectations that we have for pupils, parents/carers and ourselves set out below. We hope you find these useful and will support your child(ren), and the school, by helping us working collectively to meet them all. In doing this, your child(ren) will maximise their outcomes, gain a wider appreciation of society and the world, and improve their life chances.

We would appreciate that if you haven't already, could you please click [here](#) to complete an MS Form to acknowledge both your receipt and understanding of these expectations.

Use of Mobile Phones

To this point, mobile phones and different styles of headphones have been allowed on the school site and their use has been allowed within certain areas – Phone Zones – and at break, lunch and before/after school.

Unfortunately, we have found that a significant number of pupils are using their phones inappropriately. Ultimately, this is a distraction to pupils' learning and, therefore, their outcomes in school. Their use to take pictures and videos, send messages, listen to music and post on social media, among other things, causes these distractions. The Government recognise the negative effect and in their latest update of their advice in 'Behaviour for Schools' they state that: "Allowing access to mobiles in school introduces complexity and risks, including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse, and can be a detriment to learning."

Before the summer holidays, and at the start of this term, I gave assemblies to all Year groups and set them the goal of using their phones responsibly throughout September. If we do not see an improvement from all pupils with regard to this, the school will be left with no alternative than to ban the use of mobile phones on site. That is, on entering the school site in the morning phones would have to be turned off and put away. They would not be allowed out at any time or in any place. They could then be turned back on as pupils leave the school site at the end of the day. Any mobile phone seen during the day would be confiscated.

I would urge all parents/carers to have conversations with their child(ren) about appropriate phone use, and thank you in advance. I will update you at the end of September as required.

Your faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Edwards
Deputy Headteacher

Particulars of the Home School Agreement

Pupils are expected to secure the highest levels of success and self-esteem for themselves by:

- Treating staff, other pupils and parents/carers with dignity, kindness and respect at all times, in person and online;
- Completing tasks, home learning and coursework to the best of their ability;
- Meeting deadlines for work and other considerations;
- Achieving maximum and punctual attendance;
- Following school expectations on uniform;
- Following school expectations on behaviour outlined in the Behaviour Policy;
- Respecting the environment, including beyond the school gate and members of our local community;
- Behaving safely, including appropriate use of ICT in-school and with respect to the school community on social media;
- Not bringing banned or barred items into school (see appendix 3 of the Behaviour Policy);
- Participating in enrichment/extension activities;
- Sharing information with parents, teachers and other pupils;
- Showing positive attitude to learning at all times.

To support pupils there are basic school expectations which apply to all. These are:

- All pupils must have an eraser, black and other coloured pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator and be properly equipped for all lessons including PE and practical subjects;
- Pupils must not leave a classroom in lesson time without a note, which should be either from Pupil Services a Permission to Leave Card or a Time Out Pass;
- Uniform will be worn at all times, including the Sixth Form - coats and/or hoodies/non-school jumpers should not be worn inside the building but instead placed in lockers;
- Behaviour in the corridors and in the stairwells should be sensible, pupils should adhere to any one-way requirements at all times and noise in the corridor should be kept to a minimum;
- Chewing gum and energy drinks are not allowed in school;
- Pupils in Years 7-11 must not leave the school site during the normal school day;
- There should be no graffiti on books or other property;
- Absence notes are required promptly after every absence as well as a phone call from home on every day of absence;
- Mobile phones/headphones –are allowed in school but can only be used in the canteen or outside - they should not be used in classrooms or corridors and should not be used for taking pictures and/or recording audio/video (See appendix 2)

Parents/carers are expected to support the school and their child in securing the highest levels of success and self-esteem by:

- Treating staff, other pupils and parents/carers with dignity, kindness and respect at all times, in person and online;

- Encouraging their child to have high expectations and to work to the best of their ability;
- Encouraging maximum attendance and punctuality;
- Ensuring that their child wears the correct school uniform (as outlined on the website);
- Reinforcing both sanctions and rewards in accordance with the school's behaviour policy;
- Supporting the school's home learning policy;
- Informing the school of matters likely to affect their child's progress;
- Attending parents' evenings, school events and meetings;
- Allowing their child to be filmed or photographed for use in staff training activities and to celebrate pupil success in the wider community, including the school website.

Staff are expected to secure the highest levels of success and self-esteem for pupils by:

- Treating pupils and parents/carers with dignity, kindness and respect at all times, in person and online;
- Build positive relationships with pupils as this is fundamental to successful teaching and learning;
- Planning lessons that are interesting, engaging, appropriate to the age, ability and course requirements of the pupils they are teaching;
- Providing feedback in appropriate ways to support pupils progress;
- Applying the School's policies, including this Behaviour Policy, in a fair and consistent manner;
- Contributing alongside their colleagues to extracurricular support and activities;
- Responding to all parental contact they are aware of within two working days.

September 2022