

## **COCKSHUT HILL SCHOOL Home School Agreement Policy**

### **Ninestiles Academy Trust Mission Statement**

Ninestiles Academy Trust will be nationally and internationally acknowledged as a high achieving, innovative and exciting group of schools which recognise and respect the richness and diversity of their communities.

The trust will be structured and resourced to meet the needs of 21st century students and pupils. Within a caring environment, we will develop and reinforce the values, skills and attributes which promote good citizenship and lifelong learning. Parents, directors and academy councillors, and the wider community will work in partnership with our committed, appropriately skilled workforce and our students and pupils, to ensure that high quality learning takes place.

Outcomes will be outstanding.

Policy title	Home School Agreement Statement
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>N.B. The term 'parents' is employed throughout this policy to refer to parents, carers or others in loco parentis.</p> <p>At its most effective, the education of children is a collaborative enterprise involving teachers, parents and the pupils themselves. Self-evidently, parents know a great deal about their children; they have particular insights about their strengths, skills, interests, preferences, aspirations, anxieties and difficulties. Accordingly, the importance of meaningful, regular and positive communications between teachers and the parents of their pupils, can hardly be over stated.</p> <p>Parents can certainly help more effectively if they know what the School is trying to achieve and how they can help. This Home-School Agreement is produced in the hope of strengthening the bond between Home and School - we therefore invite you to sign a declaration supporting this agreement.</p>

## Policy statement

This Agreement is a statement of intent on behalf of both the School and parents as to:

- The School's aims and values
- The School's responsibilities towards its pupils
- The responsibilities of parents and carers
- The responsibilities of pupils
- Complaints procedures.

### **SCHOOL AIMS & VALUES**

#### **Pupils**

1. To provide a challenging, safe and supportive environment in which we can stimulate, maintain and develop, lively enquiring minds.
2. To encourage all pupils to reach their true potential and eventually become independent learners who value learning with and from others, i.e. have a positive attitude to life-long learning.
3. To value application, perseverance, initiative and independence of thought and action, as well as co-operative endeavours.
4. To develop in pupils a positive attitude (including health and fitness) towards themselves and others with a strong sense of self respect.
5. To appreciate human achievements, failures and aspirations.
6. To support the implementation of the statement on 'Shared Values' and to enable pupils to develop:
  - a range of desirable personal qualities such as safety awareness, politeness, perseverance, concern for others and the environment, initiative and independence
  - a sense of respect for other peoples' property, ideas and beliefs irrespective of gender, race, disability or academic achievement, etc.
  - a sense of moral values which can form a framework for a sense of own worth, and relationships with others, so as pupils can become responsible members of society.

#### **Curriculum**

To offer a broad based personalised curriculum in order to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, promote enjoyment in learning, and to provide knowledge/skills to equip pupils for work and leisure as active, confident and responsible members of a rapidly developing society.

#### **Community**

- To develop a school community which affords equal value to all its members, is seen to be just and encourages mutual respect, concern for others and truthfulness.
- To foster close relationships between the School the pupils' homes and the local community.

These aims have guided the construction of our schemes of work, subject aims/objectives and various school policies, e.g.

- equal opportunities, differentiation, multicultural, gender, language and Maths/numeracy across the Curriculum
- parental and community liaison
- anti-bullying
- shared values and cross-curricular themes, i.e. citizenship, health, environment, economic/industrial understanding and careers education
- health and safety
- assessment and homework (Exam Preparation Activities and Development Activities) and the safe and appropriate use of ICT
- teacher training and teacher absence.

By striving to implement these and other policies, schemes of work, subject aims and objectives the School's aims can be achieved.

## THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To strive towards achieving the School's aims and objectives.
2. To implement the policy on Home – School liaison. Particularly with respect to communications in the form of telephone contact as and when necessary:
3. the School 'Prospectus', which includes details of its aims and objectives, course provision, schemes of work, assessment procedures, policies and staffing. Where English is not the parents' first language the School will endeavour to provide appropriate translations;  
**a range of 'standard' letters either:**
  - a. to parents typically regarding parents evenings, open days, presentation evenings, curricular changes, educational visits, visiting speakers and School or local exhibitions and workshops
  - b. to parents of individual pupils, concerning, for instance, achievement and progress, attendance, punctuality, or some commendatory or disciplinary matter
  - c. articles in the Principal's termly letter to parents in which the work and activities of the School are regularly and substantially represented
4. two formal reports that summarise pupils' achievements and progress over a specific period.

Teachers will also create and use opportunities to talk with parents, and to show and explain to them examples of the pupils' work and activities:

- Parents evenings to discuss all aspects of the pupils' education; behaviour and attitude to learning, academic achievement and to set targets to enhance progress
- during discussions with an individual pupil's parents, initiated at the request of either the parents or the teacher
- during certain educational visits, school exhibitions, productions or events, in which the pupils are significantly represented
- in all communications with parents, the school staff will strive to be as sensitive as possible, to the needs, apprehensions, and background circumstances of the parent(s) and the pupil.

This means, among other important considerations, that in their communications with parents, teachers should:

- pay attention to the form of address, so as not to exclude or embarrass one-parent families, or children being fostered or 'in care';
- seek to employ a form and tone that is clear, straightforward, appropriate and friendly, be sensitive to the known home and family circumstances of a parent and their child(ren), and should exercise caution when those circumstances are not known, e.g. the parent's first language and culture are major considerations
- encourage apprehensive parents to visit the School, and to contribute as much as possible to their child's education
- use bilingual support staff, interpreters or translators if able to do so
- to implement the School's policies – in particular those on Health & Safety, home-school liaison, attendance/absence, marking, homework, anti-bullying, discipline, equal opportunities (including anti-racist and sexist policies). N.B. The School will contact parents in all cases where unauthorised absence appears to have occurred – this is for the child's security
- To endeavour to create planned, interesting and worthwhile educational events, trips and lessons.

## THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

	<p>To help fulfil their important role in their child's education, and to be as informed as possible in any communications or discussions with teachers, parents are requested and encouraged, to the extent feasible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to ensure that their child attends regularly and punctually</li> <li>• to notify the School if their child cannot attend for any reason – this is for the child's security as well as administrative reasons</li> <li>• to work with the School and education welfare service to resolve/alleviate any attendance problems or protracted absence</li> <li>• not to take family holidays during term time</li> <li>• to support the school uniform policy</li> <li>• to ensure that their child has (at least) the basic equipment necessary for their proper participation in lessons</li> <li>• to show an interest in, and to ask questions about, the work and activities in which their child is currently engaged at School and/or at home</li> <li>• periodically to look at, to ask questions about, and to comment meaningfully on, the child's work</li> <li>• to attend the School's 'parents evenings', and any other pertinent events, and when so doing, to make time to discuss their child's work and progress, and to look at some of the work displayed</li> <li>• to communicate to the Principal or a particular class teacher, any concerns or difficulties, interests or aspirations, that are either specific to, or that are seriously affecting their child's education or behaviour</li> <li>• to adhere to the school policies on visitors and school security</li> <li>• to support the schools policy and guidelines to ensure the pupil behaves sensibly and appropriately at all times.</li> </ul> <p><b>THE PUPILS' RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to attend school regularly and punctually</li> <li>• to bring all the equipment necessary for lessons</li> <li>• to wear school uniform and be tidy and clean</li> <li>• to do his/her best to complete classwork and homework</li> <li>• to tell a teacher if he/she is bullied or if they see anyone else being bullied</li> <li>• to abide by the School's code of behaviour</li> </ul>
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<b>Monitoring and review</b>	The Principal and Vice Principal
<b>Links</b>	
<b>Staff responsible</b>	Principal and Vice Principal Provision and Vice Principal Support
<b>Committee responsible</b>	
<b>Date approved</b>	
<b>Review date*</b>	

- **The Home School Agreement form is part of this policy document.** (This will be signed by the school, parent/carer and the student)

# HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

This is a Home School Agreement setting out the expectations and conduct that must be met by students, families and school staff. Please read the statements below and sign accordingly, returning the agreement to the school on the first day back in September 2017.

Name of Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Form \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. The Parent/Carer

### I/we will:

- see that my son/daughter goes to school regularly, on time, properly equipped and in uniform
- telephone school before 9.00 am on the first morning of my child's absence and each day after this
- let the school know about any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour
- support the school's Commitment for Learning (CFL) policy and its guidelines for behaviour
- support my son/daughter in homework, \*(DAs and EPAs), and other opportunities for home learning
- attend Parents Evenings to have discussions about my child's progress
- get to know about my child's life at Cockshut Hill School

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Cockshut Hill School

### The school will:

- contact Parents on the first day of unauthorised absence
- provide a balanced curriculum and do our best to meet the individual needs of your son/daughter
- send home academic reports twice yearly
- set, mark and monitor homework, \*(Development Activities and Exam Preparation Activities)
- provide facilities for pupils to do homework, DAs and EPAs in school
- arrange Parents' consultations during which progress will be discussed
- keep parents informed about school activities through termly Principal letter home, website updates and notices about special events

Signature



Date: September 2017

## 3. The Pupil

### I shall:

- attend school regularly and on time
- bring all the equipment I need every day
- wear the school uniform and be tidy in appearance
- do all my classwork, homework, \*(DAs and EPAs) as well as I can
- be polite and helpful to others
- keep the school free from litter and graffiti
- represent the school with the highest standards both on the way to school and on the way home.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_