

Staff responsible	AD
Review Date	Summer 2022
Policy Category	Safeguarding



## Northgate High School

### Attitudes to Learning (AtL) Policy September 2019

#### Aims of the School

*“Northgate High School aims to be an excellent school, where pupils enjoy learning, achieve highly, and enter the adult world with confidence.”*

**Valuing Learning / Inspiring Excellence / Fulfilling potential**

#### The 5Rs

As part of Northgate High School’s focus on promoting a growth mindset in all of our students, we believe that there are five key values which promote positive Attitudes to Learning. These are the 5R’s;

#### **RESPECT READINESS RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE REFLECTIVENESS**

- **Respect** - mutual respect for all within Northgate, visitors and surrounding community;
- **Readiness** - in terms of attitude and approach as well as equipment, prior knowledge and ‘Growth Mindset’;
- **Responsibility** - being prepared to take up responsibility both leading your own learning and representing and leading others;
- **Resilience** - the spirit of perseverance and not giving up;
- **Reflectiveness**—being able to think about yourself as a learner and how you might be able to do this better

The main principles of our Attitudes to Learning policy are to:

- Model, recognise and reward desired behaviour
- Promote high standards of behaviour and prevent learning of others being slowed
- Challenge behaviour that falls below our standards
- Empower staff to positively drive the learning and attitude of pupils
- Encourage positive staff-student interactions in class and positive school-community interactions outside the classroom

#### **Recording Attitudes to learning**

We use an electronic recording system called Pupil Asset. Positive and Negative “Events” are recorded on a pupils electronic file. This use of recording is part of every staff members daily routine allowing a full, thorough, reflective and robust student record. Analysis of student events shows that positives significantly outweigh negatives. Parents will have access to this behaviour and attendance record.

## **Desired Positive Behaviour**

Staff will model this behaviour throughout the day and where reflected by students recognise, praise and highlight this so it becomes the norm. Pupils are expected to present themselves in accordance with the schools uniform policy and be prepared for learning with appropriate equipment. When in lesson pupils should engage fully with the class and apply themselves to the best of their ability. When out of class pupils are expected to treat others and the environment with respect. To foster these interactions the school has an array of rewards which include but are not limited to; Personal positive staff-pupil interaction, Merits, Attendance certificates, Departmental rewards, letters and calls home, Reward brochure, Celebration Assemblies Presentation Afternoon, and Prefect and Head Boy/Girl selection

## **Unwanted Negative Behaviour**

Any behaviour or attitudes that fall below our expected standards will be dealt with through our stepped procedure in school. All staff are responsible for and are trained regularly on the use of our behaviour system so it is applied consistently, fairly and firmly. Staff will administer the policy in a respectful and positive manner. All actions and consequences will be communicated in a clear and simple fashion. Staff will work as a team to communicate and issue a collective decision for serious incidents. Parental involvement and support is crucial in remedying unwanted negative behaviour and will be actively sought.

**Minor Incidents (C1 Warning or C2 Detentions)** i.e talking at the wrong time or calling out, late to lesson, out of seat, lack of work/effort/homework, incorrect uniform and lack of equipment. These incidents will be appropriately dealt with by the class teacher and depending on the nature a C1-2 detention will be given and recorded.

**Repeated Minor Incidents (C3, Dept Include (C4), Reports and C5)**. If poor behaviour or attitude becomes a pattern, greater teacher intervention is required and the pupil in question will naturally move through the stepped behaviour procedure. At this point the class teacher or staff member will be joined by the HoD and/or HoY to explain the next steps to the pupil, i.e. extended 1-1 discussions, detentions, appropriate report, removal to another class, parental involvement, C4 1-Hour After School detentions, C5 Friday 2-Hour After School detentions with HoY/SLT and possible use of Referral.

C4 and C5 – After school detentions. It is the school's legal right to issue after school detentions without having to give any prior notice to parents. However given the school's location we will aim to give at least 24 hours notice. If in extreme circumstances the detention cannot be completed on the day set by staff the school will negotiate an alternative.

**Serious Incidents (GM)**. i.e. violence, aggression, swearing at staff, theft, vandalism, smoking, suspected drug use, bullying (See Anti-Bullying Policy). These incidents will require a member of the senior leadership team in conjunction with the HoY and will most likely result in a serious sanction such as a period of time excluded in either Referral (internal) or Fixed Term Exclusion (FEX) from school.

Referral is our internal exclusion room. Students are placed here when all standard school procedures have unfortunately not had the desired effect or in one off instances of extreme poor behaviour. Here the pupil is isolated from the rest of the school to allow the learning of others to continue. Whilst isolated the pupil in question is supported in usually a 1:1 manner to aid their reintegration back into school community whilst still continuing their daily studies.

#### FEX Procedures:

- All parties involved will have given statements, either verbally or written.
- The Excluded pupil will have the decision explained clearly to them.
- Parents will be contacted and have the decision and duration explained clearly.
- A letter will be sent confirming the decision.
- A reintegration meeting will be held either on collection or return from the FEX with the parent and pupil.
- All pupils returning from a FEX will be placed on a Pastoral Support Plan to closely monitor attitude and behaviour. This aims to highlight positives and provide feedback where further support should be targeted. These are reviewed every 4 weeks.

**Repeated Serious Incidents.** Where incidents like the ones above become a pattern and all methods of support have failed to change behaviour or attitude this will most likely result in a permanent exclusion (PEX), as will one off serious incidents i.e drug dealing, use of a weapon and assaulting staff.

In addition to some of the unwanted negative behaviour listed above two further aspects of our Attitude to Learning policy need to be highlighted.

#### **Aerosols and Sprays**

Due to a serious and significant allergy to a member of staff within the school, aerosols and sprays are not permitted at Northgate High School. Parents and pupils are regularly informed to remind them of this expectation as the impact on our member of staff is significant. Signage around the school acts to remind the community of the expectation. Pupils found with aerosols and sprays will have them removed and parents may collect the aerosols from Student Services. Deliberate spraying of aerosols/sprays in contravention of our Attitude to Learning Policy will result in contact with parents and immediate removal to Referral, and could result in Fixed Term Exclusion based on investigations.

#### **Use of Electronic devices**

Pupils can choose to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices into school but will be *responsible for their safekeeping: the school and its Governors will not be responsible should they go missing or be stolen*. Students should not use or have their mobile phone or other electronic devices (including but not limited to speakers, earphones, and smart watches) switched on or visible whilst on school site up to 3.30pm.

Students seen with or using electronic devices will have them confiscated and can collect them at the end of the day. All confiscated items will be held in reception. A subsequent confiscation will require collection by a parent/guardian – this will be logged by administration staff. Failure to hand over any item will result in the pupil being placed in internal exclusion for the remainder of the school day, parents contacted and further restriction placed on the offending item. Whilst we acknowledge that mobile phones are part of modern life, they distract from learning and can be misused in terms of social media linked to cyberbullying.

#### **Vandalism/Damage**

Where wilful, criminal damage is caused this will be recorded on pupil files and an appropriate protective or educational consequence given. Opportunities, where possible will be provided for children and young people to work with parents/ carers to put right any damage to reduce/ avoid costs. Where this is not possible or appropriate, parents/ carers will be charged for damage caused. Associated letters and invoices will be provided to parents/ carers for payment. Any ongoing or significant incidents of damage will be reported to the Police

#### **Policy reviewed & adopted by the Strategic Governors**

**Date:**

**Signed by Chair of Governors:**

**Review:**

**Summer 2022**