



Policy Title:	PUPILS' CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY	
Author:	The Head but also signed off by The Head of Prep & Pre-prep and Head of Senior School	
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Our five core values – Kindness, Honesty, Effort, Respect and Responsibility form the basis of the School Code of Conduct.

Introduction

Why does your behaviour matter?

- This is a happy, tolerant and constructive community: we want to maintain and develop this.
- We have the opportunity to study and work in a beautiful environment and we want to preserve it.
- We can only achieve our aims if all pupils think about, and work to improve, their behaviour.

We therefore place a high priority on excellent behaviour. In this, as in all areas of School life, we expect pupils to focus on the 'personal best' approach, striving for improvement.

Our School Ethos

Duke of Kent School strives for excellence, expects and celebrates effort, nurtures well-being and presents challenge. Our small size allows each pupil to be known and cared for as an individual.

We have a growth mindset, operating on the principle that all learners can, when properly challenged and supported, achieve extraordinary progress. Our focus is on achieving personal best in every aspect of development. We expect, and celebrate effort.

Duke of Kent School works in partnership with parents to support and promote all aspects of pupils' development. We prepare our pupils to play a positive role in their adult lives, as independent learners and thinkers, and to be responsible members of the local and global community.

We expect all members of the community to exercise tolerance, kindness, respect and empathy. We value diversity and pursue equal opportunities for all.

Religious Character of the School: Pupils of all faiths and none are welcome at our School and children learn about a variety of different religious traditions through RS and other curricular subjects. In keeping with the Christian heritage of the School, the festivals and ceremonies celebrated, such as the saying of Grace after meals in the Pre-prep and Prep School, Easter and Christmas services are those of the Christian tradition. Parents who wish their children to be excused from participation in religious celebration and tradition, or pupils who wish to be excused, are welcome to contact the Head.

Our Aims and Expectations

- We aim to build a community in which kindness and respect are central and to pursue equal opportunities for all.
- We aim to know and care for our pupils as individuals, to promote their well-being and to respond to their needs and interests.
- We aim to offer a broad, engaging, stimulating and challenging age-appropriate curriculum to all our pupils, from Nursery to Year 11. We aim to support and challenge pupils in all areas of their development: linguistic, logical, personal, physical, social, moral, cultural and spiritual.
- We aim to develop a growth mindset in our pupils and expect pupils and teachers to focus on the 'personal best' approach, striving for improvement.
- We want our pupils to experience the joy of learning alongside their teachers, inside and beyond the classroom; we aim to equip them to be independent thinkers and learners throughout their lives.
- We aim to teach pupils to be positive, compassionate and constructive members of their local and global community, ready to face the challenges of the future, and to provide them with opportunities for teamwork, leadership, service and moral development.
- We aim to work in partnership with parents to support and promote all aspects of pupils' development.

What is expected of you?

Duke of Kent School pupils are expected to observe the Code of Conduct and must understand that breaches of this Code will result in sanctions.

All members of our community have a part to play in building our community and must recognize that the way in which we behave affects everyone else. This Code is intended to make you safe and to teach you to be considerate towards other people and their needs. It will also show you what you can expect from other members of the community.

- If you are aware that this Code has been breached, you must tell a teacher.
- If you have any worries or concerns about your behaviour or the behaviour of others, please talk to a teacher or parent.
- If you are in doubt about whether or not your behaviour breaches the Code, you must seek advice from any member of staff.

- If you do not understand, or you disagree with, any aspect of the Code, you must talk to a member of staff.

Pupils have played an important role in helping to write our Code and you can also use School Council to discuss any changes you think we should make to it.

When does the Code apply?

The Code of Conduct applies:

- at all times when pupils are engaged in School activities, whether on or off site and whether pupils are in school uniform or 'home clothes';
- when pupils are travelling to and from School;
- when pupils are in some other way identifiable as pupils of Duke of Kent School.

Disciplining beyond the 'school gate' relates to the School's response to bad behaviour and bullying (including cyber-bullying) which occurs off the School premises and is reported to the School or is witnessed by a member of staff.

Misbehaviour at any time, whether in or out of School, may be dealt with under the School Behaviour Policy and could lead to suspension or permanent exclusion when it:

- has repercussions for the safe running of the School
- poses a physical or psychological threat to another pupil or member of the public
- could adversely affect the reputation of the School

All pupils must conduct themselves in a way that will bring credit to themselves and the School.

Consideration, courtesy and care for your environment must be the guiding principles of your behaviour.

You are expected to show common sense and to self-discipline. If you are unhappy or have a concern of any kind, talk to somebody; Form Teachers and Heads of Section can always be contacted via the School Office but you can talk to any member of staff. Whether your problem is big or small, it will be taken seriously and we will help you to deal with it. Our rules are set out in detail in this Code of Conduct. **You are expected to understand and follow the School Code of Conduct.**

In brief, you are expected to:

- **Respect Others** – acting kindly and helping to build a positive community
- **Respect Yourself** - presenting and organising yourself well, looking after yourself
- **Respect Property and Your Environment**
- **Report Concerns** – reporting any unpleasant behaviour, bullying or worrying situations to a member of staff
- **Put your best effort into all that you do**, in and beyond the classroom

1. Respecting Others

i) Bullying, including cyber-bullying, is not acceptable in our community. We aim to prevent bullying and unkindness in our community and when it happens we work to put a stop to it. If it does not cease, bullying will end in serious sanctions, including suspension and exclusion. If you are being bullied, or you think another pupil may be, you must report it urgently. Standing by and taking no action is unacceptable and could end in sanctions. Tolerance and respect are expected of all members of the community. You are responsible for what you say, write, and do, in the real world and in the virtual world (online, on your phone, or other device). The following are unacceptable:

- Racism, sexism, homophobia, abusive language, negative focus on the differences in others (e.g. appearance, academic or sporting ability, disability or special need, nationality, religion, beliefs, gender including transgender, sexual orientation). The School is committed to fostering a respectful environment for all pupils and staff and does not tolerate discrimination, harassment or victimisation related to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- Sexting (sending naked or indecent images of yourself or others, sending on such images if you receive them or pressuring others to engage in this activity)
- Swearing and abusive language.
- Intimidation.
- The use of language intended to hurt or humiliate others.

iii) You are here to learn and we expect you to conduct yourself sensibly in lessons.

- You must listen to the ideas of others without interrupting, dismissing or ridiculing them.
- Disrupting lessons is rude to your teachers and classmates and is unacceptable.

iv) Public displays of intimacy at School are unacceptable. There should be no intimate physical contact between pupils on the site or during any School activities.

v) Fighting or violence will not be tolerated.

vi) You must not bring dangerous or unsuitable items to School, including but not limited to: weapons, tobacco, cigarettes, smokeless cigarettes, vapes, alcohol, drugs, penknives, pornography, chewing gum or bubble gum, fireworks or bangers, nuts, energy drinks, 'legal highs', correction fluid, solvents and aerosols. Unauthorised audio, video or photographic recording is prohibited.

vii) You are expected to be on time for registration, lessons and all activities.

viii) Address teachers and other adults politely: 'sir', 'miss' or 'ma'am' or by their surname e.g. Mr Wilson, Mrs Knox.

ix) Any pupil selected for a school or house team, activity or event is expected to participate: participation is an important aspect of community life. If you cannot attend, you must let the teacher in charge of the activity know as a matter of urgency.

x) Doors should be held open for others.

xi) Running and shouting in the corridors are not permitted. Be aware of younger pupils as you move about the building.

xii) Look for ways in which you can help those around you, and do so willingly, without waiting to be asked.

2. Respecting Yourself

- i) You are expected to maintain a smart appearance at School and when on School activities.
- **School uniform must be worn correctly and neatly at all times** unless other instructions have been given by a teacher. In all matters of uniform, the Heads of Section or Deputy Head's instructions must be followed.
 - Top buttons on shirts should be done up, **shirts tucked in** and **skirts worn on or just above the knee**. Shoes should be polished; trainers or wellingtons should usually be worn for outdoor activities.
 - **Hair should be neat and tidy, not dyed**, and should not obscure the face or eyes. Hair below collar length **must be tied back using a dark coloured hair tie up until Year 8**. In Years 9 and above, pupils are not required to tie long hair back but **hair must be kept neat and tidy**. Pupils are **not permitted to have extreme haircuts** (e.g. shaved heads, hair dye) or excessive use of hair gel. Colourful hair wraps or hair braids are not allowed.
 - **No extreme or obvious make-up is permitted**; nail varnish must be clear.
 - Jewellery: Senior pupils may wear **one pair of plain gold or silver studs in the ear lobe only**, one watch and a simple gold or silver necklace. These items may need to be removed for safety reasons on your teacher's instructions. Rings and bracelets are not allowed.
 - Jewellery: Prep and Pre-prep pupils are not permitted to wear any jewellery (including earrings, bracelets and necklaces), nail polish or make-up. A watch may be worn.
 - Hats are not to be worn inside at any time.

Additional guidance:

- ***School hoodies must not be worn under blazers within the school building.***
 - ***Coats, hats, gloves and scarves must be taken off within the school building. Lockers and/or pegs are provided for these.***
 - ***Blazers may be removed during lessons with the teacher's permission.***
 - ***The School will consider reasonable adjustments or exceptions relating to religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, medical needs or protected characteristics.***
- ii) When permission is given for 'home clothes' to be worn on any School activity, you are to use good judgement about appropriate choices: ask if in doubt. You may be required to wear Games kit if your choice is considered inappropriate by your Head of Section.
- iii) Smoking, drinking and the use of drugs are unacceptable at all times and likely to end in permanent exclusion. Help is available if you have concerns: see your Form Teacher or the Medical Room Supervisor.
- iv) You are expected to get a good night's sleep and arrive at School ready to learn.
- v) You are expected to arrive for each lesson, prep or activity with the correct equipment.

- vi) You are expected to contribute in class and to think for yourself. It is important for you to be actively involved in lessons: you are here to learn! Ask if you need help with this.
- vii) You are expected to adopt a positive attitude to learning and to bring your best efforts to every task, activity, lesson and homework.
- viii) All the work you hand in, homework and classwork, should reflect your best effort and show the pride you have taken in completing it. Rushed or careless work will be returned to you to be redone. Homework must be completed according to the teacher's instructions. If you are not able to do so, you must tell the teacher as soon as possible and get any help required.
- ix) If you are having trouble with work, you are expected to ask for help. We want to help you to build resilience and to understand that mistakes and failure are important elements in the process of learning.
- x) We want you to think independently and to form your own ideas and arguments, aloud and in writing. Plagiarism (copying the work or ideas of others), passing off AI generated work as your own and cheating are not acceptable. The creation, possession, sharing or use of AI-generated or digitally manipulated content intended to humiliate, intimidate, exploit or harm another person is prohibited. This includes deepfake or altered images, audio or video, impersonation accounts, and the creation or sharing of indecent or sexualised images, whether real or artificially generated.
- xi) Pupils must attend lunch and are expected to make sensible food choices. Talk to your Form Teacher or the Dining Hall staff if you have questions or concerns about food. If you cannot find a food choice you can eat at a meal time, or you are hungry outside of meal times, you must tell a member of staff and a suitable meal or snack will be provided.
- xii) If you feel unwell or need any medical advice, you must see the School Nurse/Office staff or speak to any teacher. Any medicine you need to bring to School, or take on a trip, must be handed to the Office by your parents.

3. Respecting Property and the Environment

- i) Stealing is unacceptable and likely to end in suspension or permanent exclusion.
- ii) Your belongings must be clearly marked. Borrowing others' property without permission will be treated as stealing. If you find lost property, return it promptly to the owner or take it to the Office.
- iii) We have a beautiful environment: you must play your part in maintaining it:
 - litter must be avoided
 - report any damage or litter you see
- iv) If you have used a classroom during a break, tidy it up before leaving.
- v) Line up outside the classroom quietly and wait for a teacher to give you permission to enter.
- vi) Buying and selling is not permitted at School without the Head of Section's permission.
- vii) School drawers and lockers should be orderly and regularly cleared out. Your school bag should be used to carry only the books and equipment you need before the next break, or to transport items from home and back. You must not use your bag as a 'mobile locker'. Bags should usually be stored either in your locker or the classroom you are using. At break-time, you may leave your bag in the classroom you are just leaving or in your Form Room. Do not leave your bag in the corridors.

- viii) School books and files should be neat and presentable: you should be proud of your books and files.
- ix) Avoid bringing items of value to School. If you must do so, hand them to a teacher for safe keeping.
- x) Treat School property with respect and care. Avoid wasting resources and damaging equipment. Report any accidental damage to a teacher.
- xi) Vandalism (including graffiti) is unacceptable and will end not only in sanctions but also in charges for any deliberate or careless damage.
- xii) Food and drink are not to be consumed in classrooms without a teacher's permission. Tuck Shop is open as a weekly privilege for pupils from Y9-I I; tuck must only be eaten at the allotted break time.
- xiii) Your form teacher will talk to you about where you are allowed to go and any 'out of bounds' areas. Know the boundaries and keep to them. They are there for your safety.
- xiv) Special rules may apply to Classrooms, the Science Laboratory, DT Room, Art Room, Sports Hall, Swimming Pool, Performing Arts Hall, Personal Fitness Room and Changing Rooms. Pupils should follow any instructions given by staff about the use of these areas. Ask a teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

4. Rules for IT

- i) You are responsible for your behaviour on the network and devices provided by the School just as you are in a classroom, the corridor or games pitch.
- ii) Use of IT is a privilege and not a right. In order to use the network and devices provided by the School, you have signed an IT Acceptable Use policy and this must be followed. If you break it, this may mean you have no access to computers at School. Serious incidents could lead to suspension or permanent exclusion. If you are not sure whether an activity is permitted, check with the Network Manager.
- iii) Mobile telephones are not permitted in School for pupils. If you need to bring your telephone for any reason (e.g. travel by bike or bus), it must be checked in and out of the School Office at the beginning and end of your day. Pupils should not be on their mobile phone, on site, before it is checked in or after it is checked out of the School Office.
- iv) Cameras and recording equipment must only be brought to School with a teacher's permission, and must be stored according to the teacher's instructions. No image (still or moving) or audio recording taken in School or from any School activity must be posted on the internet without written permission from a member of staff.
- v) No device that can be used to access the internet, send texts or emails or store images is permitted in School for pupils without the Head of Section's permission. This includes smart watches. The School reserves the right to confiscate devices used in breach of this policy in accordance with DfE guidance. Pupils must not use hidden, secondary or wearable internet-enabled devices to circumvent School rules.
- vi) If you have a I-I or shared DoK iPad or chromebook, you must follow all the instructions given by your teachers regarding its use and storage, and you must keep to the Acceptable Use Policy.
- vii) You must not identify yourself as a member of the School on a social network site either directly or indirectly (e.g. photograph in school uniform, use of a school email). You must not make reference to the School, pupils or staff on the internet or social networks without written permission of a member of staff.

viii) Responsible behaviour online is expected, in and out of School. Serious sanctions will follow any attempt to humiliate, ridicule or intimidate others online. The creating, possessing or sharing of nude or semi-nude images or videos ('youth-produced sexual imagery'), including AI-generated or digitally altered images, is prohibited and may result in safeguarding action, sanctions and/or referral to external agencies.

It is important that you understand what cyber-bullying is:

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place through digital technologies, including social media, messaging platforms, online games and other digital communication. It can include threatening, humiliating, excluding or deliberately upsetting another person, or sharing harmful or offensive content about them. (Childline, 2026)

- The School will not tolerate cyber-bullying and pupils who cyber-bully, particularly when this is repeated or aggressive in nature, can expect to be suspended or expelled from School.
- Being a 'bystander' or passing on images or messages created by cyber-bullies could itself be defined as cyber-bullying.
- If investigation of an e-safety incident suggests that a pupil's misbehaviour may be criminal or pose a serious threat to a member of the public, the Head may contact the Police.

When you have a concern or a question about

- how others are treating you in the cyber-world
- how a friend or another pupil is being treated online
- your own behaviour online

you are expected to bring this promptly to the attention of a teacher or parent so that help, support and advice can be provided. Failing to do so, is a breach of this Code.

Expectations of respectful behaviour apply equally online, including on social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, livestreaming services and anonymous forums, whether or not accessed on School devices. Pupils must not engage in conduct online that promotes hatred, discrimination, extremism, harassment, sexual violence, misogyny or illegal activity.

Further information can be found in the E-Safety Policy.

5. Arriving and Leaving

- Pupils usually register in their form rooms during registration. If you miss registration you must go to the Front Office to be registered.
- If you go out during the day (e.g. for a dentist appointment), you must make sure the Office know you are leaving and must sign in again when you return. Pupils up to Y6 are signed out by staff or parents.
- Pupils from Y9-11 who wish to cycle to School must see the Deputy Head for safety and bike storage instructions. Pupils in Year 11 who wish to travel to school on motorised transport must get permission from the Head of Senior School.

- v) You must wait in the designated area to be collected unless otherwise instructed by a teacher. Behaviour should be calm and sensible. Year 7 and 8 must wait behind the barrier next to the front door. Year 9 - 11 may wait by the flagpole.
- vi) School minibus passengers must wear seat belts, follow any instructions given by the driver and be considerate to other passengers. Minibus travel is a privilege and not a right. Repeated misbehaviour on the minibus may mean you will not be allowed to use the service.
- vii) If you arrive at School before 8am, you must report to the member of staff on duty in the Dining Room.

6. Sanctions

Corporal (physical) punishment is not allowed in the School.

Sanctions will be applied proportionately and, where appropriate, alongside restorative, pastoral or safeguarding interventions. Pupils will have the opportunity to explain their actions before significant sanctions are imposed, unless immediate action is required for safety reasons.

The Head may suspend or expel a pupil for serious breaches of the Code of Conduct, at her discretion. For less serious matters, members of staff will give sanctions as follows.

- i) Unsatisfactory work will be returned to be done again. If effort, work or behaviour is consistently poor, you may be put on a Report Card which will keep a track of your progress in each lesson and prep.
- ii) Debits are given for minor offences such as lateness, forgetfulness and minor disobedience. For Prep pupils, two debits in one week lead to a 'Debit Detention'; this involves missing one lunchtime break-time. In Senior School two debits in a week also incur a detention during Friday lunchtime; parents are informed when this occurs. Three lunchtime detentions in a single term result in an Afterschool Detention on a Tuesday evening, by arrangement with parents and the Deputy Head or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Stripes

- i) These are given for more serious breaches of discipline (e.g. fighting, rudeness or lying to Staff, breaking of the School Rules.) The pupil should be informed of the stripe which is then written up on ISAMS. The giving of a stripe is followed up by Form Teachers and Heads of Prep and Senior School. Parents must be informed. A detention may also be given at the discretion of the Head of Section.

Confiscation

- i) Items that should not be brought to School or that you are misusing in some way may be confiscated by a teacher and given to your Form Teacher. You will be told when the item will be returned to you or to your parents.
- ii) Authorised staff may search pupils, possessions or lockers where there are reasonable grounds to suspect prohibited items, in accordance with statutory guidance and the School's Searching and Confiscation procedures as outlined in the School's search policy.

Suspension and Exclusion

i) Suspension is a temporary exclusion from School. Permanent exclusion is permanent exclusion from School. The most serious breaches of the Code of Conduct will be met with suspension or exclusion. Suspension may be 'external', in which a pupil is temporarily excluded from School premises, or 'internal', in which a pupil attends School but will be provided with an individual work and break schedule. The following offences are likely to be met with suspension (note: this list is not exhaustive but should be taken as a guide):

ii) Consuming alcohol or other intoxicants; drunkenness; violent behaviour; bullying; racism; sexism; bringing the School into disrepute; failure to attend Senior Detention; tampering with firefighting or safety equipment; vandalism or improper use of School facilities and resources; misuse of the internet or other media devices; breaches of the Acceptable Use policies; disruption of lessons or other School events; bringing into School offensive weapons or pornography; recurring offences; rudeness to staff; persistent 'low level' infractions, publishing offensive or damaging information on the internet about the school, staff or pupils; sexual harassment; theft; repeated smoking; buying or selling without permission; truancy; unsafe behaviour.

The following offences are likely to be met with permanent exclusion:

Repetition of the above offences; using or supplying drugs or other intoxicants; persistent theft; serious unprovoked physical assault, extreme hostility to or intimidation of a pupil or member of staff; repeated suspension; arson; behaviour which threatens the safety or well-being of others; breach of a behavioural or attendance contract.

7. Rewards

i) Merits (Y7 -I I) are awarded for good work, helpful behaviour etc. They are recorded on ISAMS and monitored by Form Teachers. Merits go towards the awarding of reward badges certificates (Black, White, Orange, Gold and Platinum) and prizes, at the end of each term. For pupils in Pre-prep and Prep School (N-Y6), Stars are awarded for hard work and effort; Diamonds are awarded for kindness and helpfulness. These can be awarded by staff, peers or pupils to themselves. Star and Diamond prizes are awarded at the end of term. Stars and Diamonds earned by pupils in Y3-I I also represent points towards the House Cup. Values Certificates are awarded by staff to pupils who have demonstrated one of the School's five Values in an exceptional way that warrants reward above a star or diamond, and earn points towards the House Cup.

ii) Commendations (Y7-I I) are awarded by your teachers relating to excellence or exceptional performance (your 'personal best'), effort or service to the community, sport, music, drama and activities. Commendations also count towards the House Cup.

iii) Rewards for attitude to learning are awarded at the end of each term, ATL data is reviewed and two students from each year group are rewarded for their attitude to learning; one for the highest average ATLs and one for the best termly improvement in their ATLs.

iv) Postcards can be sent to parents by subject teachers for exceptionally good effort or achievement at any time of the term.

Finally

Remember, if you have any questions about this Code, or any aspect of behaviour or School life, or any suggestions, you should see your form teacher.

The School will apply this policy fairly, reasonably and consistently, taking account of pupils' age, SEND, disabilities, medical needs and protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments may be made where appropriate.