

Fettes College

Behaviour and Discipline Policy

Discipline, Expectations and Sanctions

The School's Behaviour and Discipline policy is based on the fact that Fettesians are generally decent, well behaved and law-abiding pupils. More often than not any misbehaviour can be checked by a quiet word and every effort is made to maintain the generally excellent relationships between pupils and staff. Fettesians are expected always to show good manners, be courteous, well turned out, punctual and reliable in fulfilling their obligations. Pupils are asked to pursue their own goals with enthusiasm but with respect for others; they are asked to treat others with empathy, understanding and tolerance; they are asked to respond positively to the demands that community life places upon them.

The School Rules

These rules are designed to give a clear parameter for acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and apply to all pupils whether they be day or boarders otherwise there is unfairness in disciplinary situations. The most important thing to note is that:

Anything that contravenes safety, common sense, the law of the land and normal civilised behaviour is automatically forbidden.

The following are specifically not allowed:

1. Bullying in any of its forms
2. Possession/use/supply of drugs
3. Sexual misconduct and public displays of affection
4. Theft
5. The unauthorised consumption and purchase of alcohol
6. Possession of fake ID
7. Smoking, including use of e-cigarettes
8. Breaking bounds without permission
9. The possession of any weapon (offensive or otherwise)
10. Gambling
11. Driving a motor vehicle without the special permission of the Head and giving lifts to fellow pupils
12. Going onto the roof of any School building
13. Interference with fixed installations of the School, electrical or otherwise
14. Any communication with the press or media other than with the express permission of the Head
15. Anything that contravenes the IT Acceptable Use Policy
16. Eating or drinking outside School buildings
17. The chewing of gum is forbidden

Disciplinary Misdemeanours

There are clear guidelines on serious offences.

Drugs

In the case of any involvement with drugs or other illegal or prohibited substances, the pupil will normally be asked to leave the school. Pupils who, by their behaviour or their associations, give cause for suspicion that they might be misusing drugs may be required to take a drugs test. By signing the Final Entry Form (see Part B, paragraph 2) the parent/s give their consent to testing for drugs being carried out in the circumstances set out above. Where the school suspects or confirms the involvement of any pupil in drugs, the pupil's parent/s will be contacted. The use of New Psychoactive Substances (often referred to as 'legal highs') are also prohibited.

Alcohol

The school attempts to maintain a balanced approach to alcohol. It has developed the following policy to ensure the welfare of pupils and compliance with the law.

It is against the law for anyone under the age of 18 years of age to buy alcohol.

It is a fundamental school rule that pupils, whether under or over the age of 18, are forbidden to buy alcohol, and/or consume alcohol outside of the school, and/or to bring alcohol onto the school premises. The only exception to this is for pupils over the age of 18 and strictly in the circumstances set out in the following paragraph.

As part of pupils' social education, the school aims to make all pupils aware of the risks involved with alcohol whilst at the same time introducing the senior pupils to responsible drinking in an appropriate social context and under supervision. The school allows Sixth Formers moderate, controlled amounts of alcohol (2 units) at school dances and also if taken with a meal by those over 18 on Saturday evening leaves. Consumption of spirits is forbidden. The possession and use of fake ID is also not allowed in accordance with the law.

Sanctions

If any pupil breaches the school rules on alcohol they will be seen by the Senior Master and will be fined and gated (confined to school grounds) for an appropriate period of time. Parents will also be informed in writing.

Any second offence or a breach of the rules which of itself is considered to be particularly serious, will mean that the pupil is seen directly by the Head.

Senior pupils who purchase alcohol for younger pupils are liable to be punished severely. This punishment is at the discretion of the Head.

If a middle school pupil breaks the rules on alcohol, they will not be allowed to attend Saturday night social dances for the next calendar year. If a Sixth Form pupil contravenes the rules, they will not be allowed leave on a Saturday night Indulgence for the next four opportunities.

Sexual Misconduct

Pupils involved in sexual misconduct will normally be asked to leave the school.

Theft

We consider theft a serious offence as it has a very corrosive impact on a boarding community. Anyone who steals, whether in or out of school, will be seen by the Head and their position at the school will be at risk.

Bullying

The school takes any allegation of bullying very seriously and all cases are investigated thoroughly. In serious cases it is likely that the bully will be internally or externally suspended and a written warning given that in the event of further trouble the bully will be asked to leave the school. In the most severe cases the bully may be excluded.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum is forbidden throughout the school. Any pupil breaking this rule is fined £5 (which goes to charity) and may be given chores to do.

Smoking

Fettes is a non-smoking campus for staff, parents and pupils. Vaping is included in this and the punishment is the same. Any contravention by a pupil will lead to a fine of £20 (which goes to charity) and a two-week gating (being confined to the grounds). The Housemaster or Housemistress will write to inform parents. For a second offence there will be a £30 fine together with a three-week gating. The pupil will be seen by the Senior Master who will write to inform parents. If a third offence is committed the pupil will be seen by the Head. We consider smoking in buildings particularly anti-social and unacceptable as it also involves health risks and the threat of causing a lethal fire. In such cases the matter may be referred directly to the Head. E-cigarettes are also not allowed.

Internet Access & Use

At the beginning of each academic year, pupils are required to read the ICT Acceptable Use Policy. The Policy is included in Section 3 of this Handbook. A breach of the Policy may result in a ban from the ICT Network for a period of time and other disciplinary sanctions.

Dress Regulations

We require members of the school to be well turned out and to give a good impression. The School Uniform Policy is to be adhered to. We expect pupils coming to classes or going on trips to be in uniform that is tidy, with clean shoes, ties properly tied, hair brushed and with kilts and blazers properly worn. The School Uniform Policy is included in Section 3 of the School Handbook and in all House Handbooks. Full uniform guidance is listed at the end of this Handbook.

Dress regulations for ordinary activities and for games are published in House Handbooks. Casual clothes may be worn at specified times. These must be clean, tidy, decent and named and must meet with the complete approval of Housemasters/Housemistresses. Extremes of fashion are not permitted.

General

Breaches of the school rules and policies may result in the pupil being referred to the Housemaster or Housemistress or the Senior Master with possible consequent loss of privileges. Serious issues will be brought to the attention of the Head. Persistent breaching of the rules is

likely to result in loss of privileges and gating. The Housemaster or Housemistress may also find jobs for the pupil to do.

If a pupil, who is under 16, is seen by the Head or Senior Master on an issue which could lead to serious action being taken, a member of the Child Protection Team will be present. In all disciplinary meetings their Housemaster or Housemistress will be present to support the pupil.

Major breaches of school discipline may result in internal suspension, external suspension or the pupil being asked to leave the school. Internal suspension is as serious a punishment as external suspension. It involves the pupil staying in school but losing their free time which is used for extra study or community service.

If a pupil is asked to leave the school the Head will first discuss the matter with the Chair of Governors and the parents have a right to appeal for which a separate panel of Governors would be set up.

CMH

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