

Introduction

The education provided at George Watson's College is designed and organised to give our pupils a world class experience and to develop a love of learning through an inspiring curriculum and an extensive and inclusive enrichment programme. We prepare pupils fully for all examinations for which they are to be presented. Other than in exceptional circumstances (for example following a sustained absence due to ill-health) it should not be necessary for parents to engage private tutors to support pupils' learning and attainment.

Private tutors can sometimes be inadvertently disruptive to a pupil's learning, for example by teaching skills and concepts in a different way or order to that followed in the pupil's class, and they can lead to an overdependence on support rather than developing a pupil's skills at independent learning. It can also be easy for some tutors to become out of date with the particular requirements of the examinations for which pupils are presented.

Where parents are concerned at a pupil's apparent lack of progress or lack of confidence in a subject, they should bring it to the attention of the class teacher or Principal Teacher who will seek to provide additional input through other channels.

The School will only co-operate with a private tutor employed by a parent where the Head of Junior/Senior School is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances that warrant support from such a tutor. A compelling rationale must be offered for any exemption.

This policy also applies where specialist advisors or consultants are retained by parents. The School will only co-operate with such advisors or consultants where their involvement and remit is agreed by all parties, usually as part of a Child's Planning meeting.

Tuition by George Watson's College Staff

In line with contractual obligations, no employee of George Watson's College may provide private tutoring for any pupil of the School or act in the capacity as an advisor or consultant to the parents or carers of any pupil of the school without the prior written consent of the Principal. The underlying rationale for this is to avoid any conflict of interest whether real or perceived.

Such perceived conflicts of interest can take a variety of forms:

- A parent is 'buying' an enhanced service not available to other pupils
- A teacher may be perceived to favour directly or indirectly that pupil either in the classroom or in the assessment of their progress or work.

Sports coaches, Pupil Support Assistants and other staff are likewise not permitted to provide private tuition in academic or extracurricular activities unless active exemption has been sought and approved by the Head of Junior/Senior School.

Teachers working at George Watson's College on a short-term basis such as cover teachers are required to declare any pre-existing tuition arrangements with George Watson's College pupils. This also applies to Student Teachers who are not permitted to start to tutor George Watson's College pupils while on placement at the school. Any student teacher involved in an existing tutor arrangement with one of our pupils is required to discuss this with the Regent.

It is not permitted for any member of staff to use our school building, facilities or resources in any way for the purposes of providing private tuition to pupils from another school, unless an exemption has been granted by the Head of Junior/ Senior School.

Tuition by External Private Tutors

George Watson's College cannot endorse, promote or recommend private tutors. We cannot create any circumstance in which a parent or pupil may seek redress from the school if the service provided is unsatisfactory.

Furthermore, as a school we are not in a position to monitor the actions of tutors to ensure they comply with the requirements of the General Teaching Council for Scotland or the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) or other examining bodies. Where George Watson's College becomes aware of a breach of regulations by a tutor it is our professional responsibility to report the matter to the relevant body as appropriate.

Where the actions of a tutor cast doubt on the authenticity or integrity of a pupil's work, George Watson's College will take appropriate action to address the matter and to comply with our [Academic Honesty Policy](#) and the requirements of SQA or any other relevant body.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all. Parents should take appropriate steps to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of their children in any private tutor arrangement. The school cannot be responsible for child protection issues relating to an individual's use of a tutor.

Policy Review and Governance

The Policy owner is the Deputy Head for Teaching and Learning in the Senior School.

This Policy is reviewed every two years and has been approved by the Education and Pupil Wellbeing Committee of the Governing Council.

Implementation

This Policy will be shared with parents and staff through the portals.