

# The American School in London

## Lower school rules

In the Lower School, we believe in a moral education approach to discipline. Our goal is to help children develop self-discipline so that they have respect for rules and the rights of others, whether adults are present or not. We believe that all ASL employees help students develop respect and responsibility for our school community as well as the greater community. We believe in creating a strong classroom and divisional community where expectations for behavior and how we work together is understood. We believe that students can take ownership for their behavior and when mistakes are made, can make amends and continue to be a contributing member of the group.

Our ASL Core Values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Integrity and the Courage to Act guide our beliefs of how the members of our community act and communicate with one another. The ASL Portrait of the Learner is a tool to reinforce these values along with other dispositions that we promote. In each classroom, the children and teacher develop mutually agreed upon rules. For both school and classroom rules, we establish logical consequences, which can serve as a moral teacher. Our philosophy can be summed up as “We expect you to follow the rules because that’s the right thing to do. These rules are there to help everybody in our school.”

Students are expected to behave in a way that demonstrates respect for each other, for adults, and for the resources and facilities at ASL. As members of a dynamic and caring school community, all ASL employees are expected to help students develop responsibility and a deep appreciation for our multicultural community. Each division has its own rules relating to discipline and student behavior.

We have three general school rules that guide our behavior, whether in class, in the corridor, at recess, on the bus, or on field trips. Specialists and classrooms share the same three general rules. Classroom agreements that further define these three rules should be made individually and with the children.

### 1. Be respectful

- Act in a kind way to other children and adults. No teasing, name-calling, or “put down” statements will be allowed, e.g., making fun of a person’s name, appearance, background or abilities.
- Respect yourself and others. When there is a conflict, resolve it peacefully by talking and listening to the other person. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.

## 2. Be safe

- Stay in sight of an adult on the school campus.
- Play games in a safe way and allow others to join when they ask.
- Move about the school in a safe way.

## 3. Be responsible

- Come to school on time every day with all of your materials
- Bring only appropriate play items. You may not bring any weapons either real or toy, e.g., toy guns, pocket knives, etc.
- Accept consequences for behavior.

Procedures we will follow depending upon the circumstances:

- The child will be reminded of the rule and may be asked “to talk it out” in cases where there is a conflict with another child.
- An adult will talk with the child about the problem.
- The child will be asked to take a “time out” to think about his/her behavior.
- A phone call or note will be sent to parents.
- A parent conference will be held.
- The child may be sent home. Children should understand that this will occur if another child is physically harmed in a deliberate manner.
- The child will be suspended from school for one to three additional days in severe cases of misbehavior or for repeated disrespect, teasing, bullying or hurting others.