

HOME – SCHOOL AGREEMENT

At St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School, we aim to provide the highest quality of education for all students, to enable them to fulfil their potential and reach high levels of achievement. We see our home-school agreement as an essential element of our strategy, central to the partnership between school, parents/guardians and students.

Objectives and targets

The aims of the home-school agreement reflect the whole school's objectives:

- To provide all members of our community with a safe, well-ordered and nurturing environment, where every individual is loved, valued and treated with respect.
- To preserve an environment where all members of the community strive to be of service to others and uphold the Christian values of love, forgiveness and compassion.
- To provide all students with equal opportunity to achieve their full academic, social, spiritual and personal development.
- To maintain a stimulating educational community within which all students' individual needs are known, understood and met, and which enables staff and students to work in a co-operative way.
- To ensure commitment to equality of opportunity for all is shared by all, and is central to all aspects of school life, regardless of ability, race, religion, gender or class.
- To provide structures which ensure that students, staff, parents and members of the local community are actively involved in the life of the school.
- To give students an understanding of the complex and changing society in which we live, so that they are equipped to make autonomous decisions, and cope with the demands of the modern world.

Action plan

The School's role in the Home-School Agreement

When students are offered a place, they and their parents/guardians are interviewed at the school prior to starting in September. On starting in Year 7 (or later where applicable), each student is allocated a place in one of five form groups; these generally remain the same until the start of Year 12. Each form group will have been devised using information provided by the feeder schools and by taking into account the preferences, in terms of friendship, indicated by the student and/or their parents at the pre-joining interview. The form tutor oversees the academic and social progress of each student. Each group is based in its own room and the students are encouraged to take responsibility for the appearance and atmosphere of their form room, particularly at KS4 as the students have the privilege of using their form room at breaks.

All students must be able to progress at the speed that is right for them. In most areas of the curriculum students are taught in form groups for the first two years. In order to get to know their students thoroughly, the school aims to ensure that all Year 7 students are taught by their tutor, where possible. In some subject areas, such as mathematics, form groups may be split to allow for teaching groups to be organised on the basis of ability. Regular reviews take place to assess whether students should move into a different ability group. For those who have special educational needs, help is provided either in ordinary classes or in smaller groups. Students are

examined each year to measure the progress that they have made. Teachers are expected to set homework where appropriate and mark it regularly, as outlined in the school's Marking, assessment and Reporting Policy. The School will regularly review the Curriculum offer available to students and inform parents of any significant changes.

The students' role in the home-school agreement

A good working atmosphere and positive relationships are essential. Our Behaviour Policy encourages students to show self-discipline and be responsible for the consequences of their actions. We expect high standards of attendance and punctuality, friendly, caring and thoughtful behaviour towards others and for students to prepare themselves fully for lessons and learning.

Students have to agree to complete and submit homework on time. Homework is monitored by staff and parents/guardians through the ClassCharts app, which can help students to organise their work. A disciplined approach to homework in the years leading up to and at GCSE, and beyond, is essential. Consequently, the School's Missed Deadline Procedure reinforces the need for students to meet the set homework deadlines by producing thoroughly completed work on time. Students are encouraged to have access to online learning and communication apps recommended by the school.

Every student is expected to wear the prescribed school uniform for their Key Stage; Sixth Form students wear a different uniform to the other students. Details regarding the uniform requirements can be found on the school website. There is also a prescribed list of kit and items for physical education lessons, details of which are also available on the website.

All students are expected to abide the school's policies, such as those regarding behaviour, anti-bullying, use of electronic devices and the use of school provided ICT; this helps prevent episodes of harassment or bullying behaviour.

The parents' / guardians' role in the home-school agreement

The school strongly encourages parents/guardians to support their child(ren)'s education, believing that their involvement is vital for success. Parents/guardians are expected to ensure that the homework set is completed and submitted by the deadline by their child(ren); information regarding the details of homework and associated deadlines are available via the ClassCharts app for parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians are welcome to come into school or to telephone at any time, and our staff will do their utmost to be available to help. Parents/guardians are expected to attend our annual Information Evenings in September and virtual Parent Consultation once a year to discuss the progress of their child(ren). Parents are encouraged to have access to online learning and communication apps recommended by the school.

The School also encourages parents/guardians to become involved in supporting the school community through its Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association. In addition, parents elect members to the school's Governing Body; an election is held when a vacancy occurs. The Governors oversee the school's budget, are involved in the appointment of staff and approve the school's policies.

All students and parents/guardians are asked to sign this contract. In doing so, they agree to support and uphold the school's ethos and expectations for student behaviour, attendance and the completion of homework.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Behaviour Policy, Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy, Exclusions Policy, Registration and Attendance Policy, Anti-bullying

Policy, Use of Electronic Devices in School Policy, ICT Acceptable Usage Policy and Homework Policy.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of this home-school agreement will be undertaken at several levels:

- By students through the student council.
- By staff at staff meetings.
- By Governors through reports received from the Headteacher.

This home-school agreement will also be monitored regularly to ensure that it reflects any changes in legislation and will be evaluated in the light of any concerns from students, parents or staff.

Reviewing

The home-school agreement will be reviewed biennially to assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Headteacher will report the effectiveness of the agreement to the Governing Body.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Addendum to the Behaviour Policy in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic which can be found [here](#).

HOME – SCHOOL AGREEMENT (including CODE OF CONDUCT)

We believe that this school should be a place where every individual is loved and valued for whom they are, is shown and shows forgiveness and compassion and is treated with respect, within a safe, well-ordered environment.

We expect all members of the school community to:

- Show courtesy and sensitivity to everyone.
- Respect others' beliefs and opinions.
- Respect each other's space.
- Appreciate each other's effort and achievements.
- Be patient and considerate.
- Listen to each other.
- Be prepared to say sorry and accept apologies if offered.
- Treat school buildings, grounds and property with respect.
- Follow health and safety rules.
- Take full responsibility for their own work and behaviour.

Student Responsibilities

I will:

- Attend school regularly and arrive on time.
- Attend all lessons punctually.
- Wear the School uniform properly.
- Be a friendly, thoughtful member of the school community and will do my best to uphold the values of love, forgiveness and compassion.
- Be a respectful and cooperative member of the school community.
- Bring all the equipment I need every day.
- Take care of all school equipment and help keep the school free of litter.
- Do my class work and homework to the best of my ability.
- Access homework and other information via the recommended Apps.
- Always complete and submit work on time.
- Focus on making progress to fulfil my potential.

- Involve myself fully in the activities on offer.
- Read and follow the code of conduct for student behaviour as outlined in the Behaviour Policy, which can be found on the school's website.
- Read and follow the school's policies on the use of electronic devices and school provided ICT facilities.

Signed _____ (student)

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

I / We will:

- Maintain the spirit of this partnership.
- See that my child attends school regularly, on time and properly equipped.
- Ensure that my child wears the prescribed school uniform.
- Inform the school of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour.
- Support the Christian values of the school community.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour.
- Support the school in upholding its high standards.
- Attend Information Evenings and Virtual Parent Consultations and discussions about my child's progress.
- Support my child in homework and other opportunities for home learning.
- Try to ensure that the set homework is completed and submitted on time, by having awareness of the information available via the recommended apps.
- Monitor the Classcharts app on a regular basis.
- Support learning as a life time commitment.
- Read and then encourage my child to follow the code of conduct for student behaviour, as outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy which is available on the school's website.
- Try to be an active member of the Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association.
- Attempt to support the Catholic community and the School's Governors in their responsibilities for maintaining the school buildings in good repair.

Signed _____ (parent/guardian)

School Responsibilities

The School will:

- Provide a friendly welcome to each student and a secure, stimulating, Christian environment in which to learn.
- Ensure that everyone is valued for whom s/he is and helped to make good progress in spiritual, moral, emotional and academic development.
- Treat each student with the dignity and respect s/he requires, encouraging everyone to full human wholeness.
- Demonstrate our faith and live out our mission statement in the way we teach and the way we live and worship in our school.
- Provide a balanced curriculum and meet the student's individual needs, enabling them to feel a sense of achievement.
- Provide the best possible education we can for each and every student.
- Challenge each student to strive for the highest standard of personal, social and intellectual development and aim for excellence in all that s/he does.
- Provide parents/guardians with regular information about their child(ren)'s progress and the opportunities to meet the staff.
- Inform parents/guardians of any concerns regarding their child(ren)'s behaviour, work or health.
- Inform parents/guardians of any sanctions that may have been applied to their child(ren).
- Keep parents/guardians well informed about school policies and activities through regular letters and newsletters.
- Set, mark and monitor homework suitable for each student's needs.
- Send home an annual report of progress.

Signed _____ (Headteacher)

Approved by the Governors' Catholic Life of the School Committee on 27th January 2021

Next Review: Autumn 2021