

## 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 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 four 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, particular 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 three years. In order to get to know 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.

### **The students's 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 hand in homework on time. Homework is monitored by staff and parents/guardians often through the Homework Diary, which helps students 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.

Every pupil is expected to wear the prescribed School uniform for their Key Stage; Sixth Form students wear a different uniform to the other students.

### **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 brought into school by the deadline by their child(ren). 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 parents' evenings once a year to discuss the progress of their child(ren).

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

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 pupil behaviour, attendance and the completion of homework.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the DFE statutory guidance on home-school agreements (2013) at <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g0014718/home-school-agreements>, with reference to the following policies: Behaviour policy, Drugs and substance abuse policy, Exclusions policy, Registration and attendance policy, Anti-bullying policy, and Homework policy.

## HOME – SCHOOL AGREEMENT (including CODE OF CONDUCT)

***We believe that this school should be a place where every individual 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.
- Record all relevant information in my Homework Diary.
- Always complete and hand work in on time.
- Focus on making progress to fulfil my potential.

- Involve myself fully in the activities on offer.
- Follow the code of conduct for student behaviour, outlined in the Homework Diary.

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.
- Attend Parents' Evenings 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.
- Monitor and sign the Homework Diary on a weekly basis.
- Encourage my child to follow the code of conduct for student behaviour.
- Try to be an active member of the Parent/Teachers' 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 who 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.
- 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 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.
- 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' Ethos Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Next Review: Autumn 2019