



BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING POLICY

Behaviour for Learning Policy

INTRODUCTION

At Torquay Academy we believe that each student has the right to learn in a disruption free environment. Our behaviour for learning policy emphasises the need for each individual to take responsibility for their learning and to support the learning of others.

The academy aims to raise standards and achievement by ensuring that every individual is given the opportunity to develop to their full potential. This will be achieved through high quality teaching and learning and by rigorously tackling underachievement.

High standards of behaviour, attendance and punctuality are important in ensuring that all students are given the best possible opportunity to reach their true potential at the Academy.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We acknowledge that the vast majority of our students are exceptional in terms of effort, progress and attitude to learning consistently. It is important that these students are recognised and celebrated regularly.

We believe it is vital that praise and rewards should have a considerable emphasis within the Academy. Students achieve recognition for a positive contribution to Academy life in a number of ways.

Commending excellent behaviour and praising excellent work is the most important aspect of our Behaviour for Learning policy.

SANCTIONS

Running alongside the rewards system is a sanction system: for negative behaviour, lack of uniform or equipment and other misdemeanours such as homework issues and rudeness to others.

START OF THE DAY

Students need to arrive to school by 8:20am. This is important so we can have a prompt start. They need to go to tutor rooms promptly. Students who are late need to complete an after school detention 3pm - 4pm. Parents and carers are informed immediately.

TUTOR TIME & LINE UP

This is an important aspect of the day. Having a positive start and ensuring students are fully equipped for the day is the responsibility of form tutors and pastoral leaders. Equipment, homework and uniform is checked daily and where possible, any issues are resolved.

Students who arrive on time with full uniform, correct equipment and homework can earn two house points daily. Students who fall short of our expectations will be placed in breaktime one reflection sessions 10:40am - 10:55am.

BEHAVIOUR IN LESSONS

Nothing is more important than learning so expectations are high and disruption is not tolerated. Our students deserve disruption free learning so they are able to progress and fulfil their true potential. Any students who prevent this learning from happening are dealt with through our behaviour for learning procedure.

BEHAVIOUR AROUND THE ACADEMY

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Cooperate with staff requests, use appropriate language, put litter in the bins and refrain from rough play. The Academy is a community and we need to treat each other and the environment with respect.

CONSEQUENCES

Although as an Academy we aim to focus on the positives there are unfortunately times when an individual or a minority display behaviour that is unacceptable and needs to be sanctioned. We have a restorative approach and encourage students to make 'correct choices' and take responsibility for their actions. We all make mistakes but it is how we move forward and learn from them that is important.

BEHAVIOUR PREVENTING LEARNING

The Academy uses a traffic light system (T1, T2, and T3) in which students who do not meet expectations in the classroom are placed on a board and warned that further disruption will lead to them being told to leave the lesson.

If a student is told to leave the lesson they report to the year hub office immediately (If in a specialised room out of the year hub area they will be collected by the pastoral team) in which they will remain for the remainder of that lesson. During this time the student will complete a reflection sheet and continue with school work. Parents/carers are informed immediately by the pastoral team that their child has been parked. They will complete a detention 3pm - 4pm the same evening in which the staff member will meet to complete a restorative meeting so expectations are reinforced and the relationship remains positive.

All staff follow the system. Not to do so weakens the system through inconsistency and actively works against excellent behaviour for learning at Torquay Academy.

The aim of our classroom behaviour system is to encourage students to make positive choices that enable them and others to learn. The language of 'choice' is used to direct students towards behaviour that enables outstanding teaching and learning to take place.

YEAR HUBS

Each year group has a dedicated office area where pastoral staff are based. This is used for students who have been 'parked' from a lesson. They report to their year hub office and complete their work under supervision.

EXCLUSIONS

Internal

This can be used for serious breaches of our expectations and when students need to be kept apart from their peers. Some behaviours that may require internal isolation include fighting, dangerous or threatening behaviour, verbal abuse or persistent disruption to learning. This is not an exhaustive list. Parents/carers will be invited in to discuss the issues and an action plan will be discussed to avoid further issues.

External - written in line with DfE Guidance

Sometimes it is necessary to exclude a student externally. We recognise the seriousness of this action and in each case the Principal makes that decision. Following an external exclusion, a readmission meeting is held to discuss the incident and put together a plan for how to move forward and prevent a repeat.

PERMANENT EXCLUSION

The most serious breaches of our expectations may lead to a permanent exclusion. This is carried out in line with the Torbay guidance and protocols on exclusions and DfE guidance.

Only the Principal is authorised to permanently exclude a student from Torquay Academy.

Reasons to permanently exclude include:

- Persistently disruptive behaviour
- Serious act of physical or threatened violence
- Bringing in illegal or dangerous substances - including alcohol or drugs
- Carrying an offensive weapon

This is not an exhaustive list.

DfE Guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

BEHAVIOUR OUTSIDE OF THE ACADEMY

The Academy is committed to ensuring our students act as positive ambassadors whilst in the community. When walking to and from school in uniform students represent the Academy and need to conduct themselves accordingly. Students can be excluded for behaviour that occurs outside if it brings the Academy into disrepute.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

UNIFORM & APPEARANCE

At Torquay Academy we believe that a smart, tidy and business like appearance is very important for all our students.

It is our view that a sloppy appearance is the sign of a casual approach and we would like all our students and parents/carers to appreciate the part that uniform plays in contributing to the ethos and reputation of the academy. We also want our students to be ready for the expectation of future employers and the world of work. That is why the wearing of school uniform is compulsory and why we expect all students to adhere to our rules.

For students who are not in the correct uniform or of an acceptable appearance a phone call home will be made in an attempt to rectify the issue. If unable to do so a detention 3pm - 4pm will be issued. Persistent failure to follow the uniform code of conduct may lead to a fixed term exclusion

MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The increased use of mobile phones requires that staff, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly.

Our policy is that although mobile phones and other devices are allowed to be brought into the Academy the following rules need to be followed:

- At 8:20am they are put on silent and away in a bag or blazer.
- They can be used before and after school, and at break times and lunchtimes.
- They are not to be seen in lesson time or during transition
- Students are not allowed to charge their phones in lessons

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the phone being confiscated and an after school Academy detention issued. Students will get their mobile phones back at 4:00pm following the detention.

EARPHONES

Earphones are not to be visible in lessons. Students need to remove them completely after break time and lunchtime. They are not to be fed through shirts and dangle down.

If earphones are visible students will be given an Academy detention and collect the earphones at 4:00pm.

DfE guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>

BANNED ITEMS

Students must not bring in any of the items below to the Academy. They will automatically be confiscated and could result in sanctions up to and including permanent exclusion: staff have the right to search students with or without consent.

- Cigarettes/ lighters/ E Cigarettes / Vapours
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs/drugs paraphernalia
- Weapons
- Energy drinks
- Chewing gum
- Laser pens
- Aerosols
- Any other dangerous articles

BEHAVIOUR OF VISITORS, PARENT/CARERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Behaviour expectations extend to all visitors to the Academy including parents/carers, family members, visitors and contractors. Everyone has a duty to behave in an appropriate manner showing respect and control. Staff have the right to work, as students have a right to learn, free from fear of physical or verbal abuse.

Such behaviours can be either in person, by telephone, letter, email or other forms of communication and is not confined to incidents occurring at the Academy (e.g. it could occur in the street or any other public or private place).

A range of measures can be taken by the Academy in response to such behaviours. These include verbal warnings, written warnings, barring from visiting or contacting the Academy and ultimately reporting to the police with a view to prosecution.

REASONABLE FORCE

'Reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils. The force is usually used either to control or restrain, but no more force is used than necessary.

Examples of when force is used to control pupils can include:

- In passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path
- In active physical contact, such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom

In contrast, restraint means:

- Holding a pupil back physically
- Bringing a pupil under control

DfE guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force--in-schools>

Incidents of physical restraint must:

- always be used as a last resort;
- be applied using the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time possible;
- be used in a way that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned;
- never be used as a form of punishment;
- be reported to Ben Chadwick, Vice Principal, recorded and reported to parents.

It is acknowledged that reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) will be made.

COVID - APPENDIX

Whilst expectations remain the same it is necessary in the light of COVID 19 to make some adjustments for the safety of all students and staff.

This addendum is to be used in conjunction with and alongside our behaviour for learning policy.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM SCHOOL

All students will arrive and depart school via their designated entrances and make their way directly to their bubbles. At 8:20am all students go to their tutor rooms with line up being 8:52am.

MOVEMENT AROUND THE SCHOOL

Movement around the school is limited. All lessons are timetabled within each year team hub with the exception of specialised teaching groups including PE, Art, Music, Technology and Science. Staff will collect students from their hub and walk them to the classroom/area once the rest of the school are in classrooms and off the corridors. Both students and staff are required to wear face coverings during the transition.

HAND WASHING AND HYGIENE

Students are expected to follow all hand washing and hygiene routines while in school. Students will wash hands/use antibacterial gel when entering school, after returning from break times, before and after each lesson and before and after eating and at regular intervals during the day.

If students need to cough or sneeze they should use a tissue or crook of their arm. Students will be reminded not to touch their face, mouth, nose or eyes whilst in school.

BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL

If a student's behaviour is deemed high risk, for example refusing to adhere to safety measures, such as hand sanitising, remaining in their bubble or deliberate behaviours that put themselves or others at risk, the following sanctions can be used:

- Conversation with student(s) reminding them of the importance of keeping everyone safe
- Phone call home to parents/carers to express concern re behaviours
- Break or after school detention
- Fixed term exclusion
- As well as others

At Torquay Academy we acknowledge that students will have a range of different experiences during the lockdown period which may have an impact on their behaviour when in school. We will work closely with parents/carers to support all students in adapting to ever changing circumstances.

STUDENTS - LEARNING FROM HOME

Unfortunately some students are required to self isolate for a period of time. Torquay Academy aims to support these students with online learning.

If interacting with other students or staff online, students should always be kind and respectful to each other and behave in the same way as they would if sat in front of the teacher. Any inappropriate comments or behaviour will be taken very seriously.