



June 2016

Ref: MSU/pab

encl

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Revised behaviour system - effective Monday 27 June 2016

I wrote to you earlier in the term to inform you that as a school we have been reviewing the behaviour systems which are in place to support excellent relationships and a culture of learning. Our aim is to establish the highest possible standards of behaviour at Forest Hill School. This is important so that the school is always a warm, caring, friendly and happy place where learning can flourish. Students' behaviour around the school should be impeccable; every lesson should be characterised by a relentless focus on learning, free from distractions. Every student and every member of staff should be able to feel relaxed and happy, confident that their working environment is one where people are kind, courteous and respectful at all times.

We have very high expectations of our students and a belief that every student is capable of meeting them. The rules are only there because we need them to help us make sure that learning can happen in the best possible conditions. Everyone has to follow the rules to make sure that the system works and everyone benefits. Of course, the overwhelming majority of our students behave in the way we would wish in lessons, and around the school. We need to do all we can to ensure that those who do not behave well understand the effect that their actions have on others, and that there are consequences for poor behaviour. Boys who consistently behave well will not be affected by the new behaviour system. Rather, their good behaviour will be supported by it.

Our refreshed system is based on the principle that, once students are clear about rules and consequences for not following them, they can make the right choices for themselves and others. When children thrive at school and at home, it is usually because the boundaries are very clear and there are clear consequences if they stray beyond them. Clear boundaries and high expectations of behaviour are completely compatible with a caring and happy atmosphere, and an environment in which restorative approaches are used. I would like to emphasise that our commitment to being a restorative school is undiminished. Indeed the new system is intended to support and further develop the principle that if a person's actions have a negative impact on others there must be a restorative meeting to make good the harm caused.

Dacres Road
Forest Hill
London SE23 2XN

T: 020 8699 9343

F: 020 8699 9198

E: info@foresthillschool.co.uk

www.foresthillschool.co.uk



Headteacher: Mike Sullivan BSc (Hons)

At school, in every situation where there are rules, students either choose to follow them or they make a choice to break them and face the consequences. The rules have to be clear and the consequences need to be consistent for this to work and that is our aim in implementing this system. We received an outstanding grading for behaviour from Ofsted in our 2013 inspection so please rest assured that we have a solid base from which to move forward. However we need to aim for the highest of standards for all students, hence our reaffirmation to the minority of students who choose to place themselves outside the school's culture, that the majority of us find this to be unacceptable.

Attached is a clear schematic summary of how our new system works, as well as a copy of the recently reviewed Relationships and Behaviour Policy. Standards Detention will be the result of students breaking a range of rules, including being sent to Referral. Being sent to Referral means that, after having received two warnings a student persists in disrupting learning for others to the extent that he can no longer remain in the classroom. One of the key changes embodied in the new system is that if a student is sent to Referral he will serve a 30 minute Standards Detention on the same day after school during which he will have a restorative meeting with the teacher who sent him to Referral. This is because we judge that having disrupted learning to the extent of being sent to Referral is very serious and unacceptable, and needs to have an immediate consequence. I must reassure you of two things; we are legally permitted to do this, and you will be notified by email on the afternoon of the detention. Failure to attend Standards Detention will result in further sanctions as outlined on the schematic.

I know that I can rely on your support in this tightening of our systems to support good learning. I would be very grateful if you would discuss the contents of this letter and associated attachments with your son. We will, of course, be working with all students to ensure that they have a clear understanding of what the new system means for them going forward.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sullivan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Sullivan
Headteacher