



Committed to Care
and Excellence

Gracemount High School

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Head Teacher
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Relationships for Learning Policy – December 2018 Update

I am writing to update you on some changes we have made to our Relationships for Learning policy, effective from week beginning 10th December. This policy sets out the way in which we promote and develop positive relationships across the school and makes it clear how we **protect learning** for the benefit of all members of our school community.

We will issue an updated parental leaflet in January and ensure that this is sent home to all parents and carers via pupils and updated on our school website. In the meantime, please see below for some very important updates.

On-calls

Low-level on-calls generally occur when the teacher feels the learning is being interfered with in the classroom. All teachers use a 3-step procedure. This involves:

1. A formal warning, normally issued quietly to the pupil to make them aware that their behaviour is concerning the teacher.
2. Asking the pupil to step outside the classroom for few minutes. The teacher will remind the pupil about the need to protect learning in the classroom and invite them back into the class.
3. On-call.

Low-level on-calls will result in the pupil being sent to an agreed classroom with their work and supervised by another teacher. They will return to the class at the end of the period. No further action will take place and pupils **will not** be expected to complete a detention. The teacher will remind the pupil of expectations for the following lesson.

High-level on-calls are issued when a more serious breach of discipline has occurred. The teacher does not have to follow the three-step process and may move to an immediate on-call if they deem the behaviour to be serious enough. Should a high-level on-call be issued the pupil will be collected by the duty head (a senior member of staff) and taken to the on-call room for the remainder of that period, which will be supervised by a member of staff. Once the period is finished, the pupil will then go to their next timetabled class and they will be required to complete a 15 minute detention/reflection period at the end of the school day. A text message will be sent home to inform the parent/carers.

Late coming

As a school we place significant importance on being on time and attending school. We have decided to remove our below expectation detentions for late coming in the morning. Late coming will be monitored through house team meetings and where there is a concern parents/carers will be contacted.

Any pupil who arrives after the 8.32am bell will officially be recorded as late and we ask that all our parents and carers work with us to promote the importance of being on time and attending school.

As is currently the case, pupils who arrive late after lunch, without reason, will continue to receive a below expectation detention, to be completed at the end of the school day.

Mobile Phones

We recognise that phones are a part of everyday life for almost all of our young people. In many cases, under the supervision and direction of our staff, mobile phones can be used to support

learning in the classroom. We also acknowledge that many of our school subjects use phones in different ways to support learning and as a result, we have faculty specific rules for the use of phones across the school. Our teachers will be speaking to pupils this week and will be very clear about our expectations. **The basic rule is that mobile phones should only be used in a classroom with the express permission of the teacher.** Where mobile phones are used inappropriately, they have a significantly detrimental effect on learning and this is what we want to avoid. Should a young person continually misuse their phone then I, or a member of my senior team will make direct contact with home.

Abusive language

Regrettably, we have witnessed an increase in this type of behaviour, particularly towards staff. We wish to make it clear that in no circumstances is swearing an acceptable behaviour in our school community and we will work with our young people and their families to ensure that this type of behaviour is not part of our school. Our aim is to educate our young people to be responsible citizens and to learn how to make an effective contribution to their communities. By making it clear about our expectations on this matter we hope to improve the ethos of the school and the wellbeing of all members of our school community.

Should you have any questions or queries regarding our approach please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. In the meantime, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in making Gracemount High School a positive learning environment for all.

Yours faithfully

Ross Hunter

Head Teacher

