

At Riverside School high standards of work and behaviour are encouraged and expected. Individual efforts are praised and rewarded, and every student is encouraged to become a responsible member of our school community in which kindness, courtesy, self-control and respect for others are valued and practised. We want to ensure that school life is a challenging, happy and rewarding experience for everyone.

Code of Conduct

The code of conduct supports the values and standards that are promoted within Riverside School. Arriving and Leaving:

- Arrive and leave promptly
- Do not enter the building or stay inside without the permission of the teacher on duty.

In the Classroom:

- Honour and respect your teacher - he/ she cares, works hard and wants the best for you.
- Honour and respect each other - try to put others first; think of others.
- Welcome new students. Keep your work environment / area tidy.
- Help to look after school books and equipment.
- Work hard!
- Stay on task!
- Try to do your best in everything.
- Take pride in your work.
- Work quietly and try not to disturb others.
- Try not to interrupt others - wait your turn to speak or raise your hand.
- No eating except in designated areas.
- No smoking or chewing gum on the school premises.
- Ask for permission to leave the room

In the Corridor:

- For safety reasons: walk - never run!
- Move about quietly.
- Go to the toilet at the beginning or end of break / recess if possible (to minimise disruption) and always pay attention to personal hygiene.
- Give way to visitors, parents, teachers and anyone carrying heavy objects.

In the Cloakroom or Locker Room:

- Keep your space tidy.
- Look after your personal belongings and respect those of others. If you find something on the floor, pick it up and put it in the right place.
- Always change into the correct footwear: indoor or outdoor shoes. Help the younger students.
- Go about things quietly and calmly.

During Break / Recess:

- Be mindful of the younger students.
- Stay within the designated area - never walk out of the school gates or onto the road. If you see a gate open, please report it.
- Always put wrappers from snacks in the litter bin.
- No fighting, 'play fighting' or rough games - they nearly always end in tears.

- No throwing sticks, stones or walnuts!
- Report incidents or accidents to the teacher on duty.
- Primary school students should line up smartly and quietly when the bell rings. High school students should be at their desk ready for class at the end of break.

Qualities Encouraged at Riverside School

These Qualities are encouraged in assemblies and tutor time and are displayed in classrooms and student planners.

Punctuality

- Be on time and try to complete assignments on time.

Politeness/Courtesy

- Always use 'Please, Thank you, May I, You're welcome!'
- Use the person's name when you are referring to someone.
- Look at the person when you are speaking or listening to them.

Respect

- For your teachers, your parents, fellow students, other people.
- For yourself
- For property of others and the school
- For the environment

Kindness

- Think of others.
- Do acts of kindness towards others whenever the opportunity arises.

Responsibility

- Be sensible. Act in a mature way.
- Work well on your own or together.
- Complete school tasks and homework to the best of your ability.
- Be trustworthy.

Self-control

- Try to think before you act or speak.
- Apply wisdom to all situations.

Excellence

- Always try to do your best
- Aim to improve.

Honesty

- Tell the truth.
- Be brave enough to admit wrongdoing and apologise. Act with integrity.

Faithfulness

- Do what you have promised or agreed to do and see it through.

Promotion of Good Behaviour

Riverside actively promotes good behaviour and recognises and rewards it appropriately. This is done by:

- staff regularly recognising, praising and congratulating students publicly - to other staff, within the classroom setting and to the wider school community (including parents).
- staff awarding students House Points (Primary and Junior High), Quality Cards, stickers or individual class rewards (Primary).
- the presentation of Quality Cards to deserving Primary students during Whole School weekly assemblies and celebration Assemblies are held throughout the Primary School, where certificates of achievement and progress are awarded.
- publicly recognising Junior and Senior High students at weekly whole-school assemblies.
- acknowledging outstanding effort or acts of kindness in school throughout the year. Our annual Student Council led 'Kindness Week' allows kindness to be a specific focus.
- acknowledging achievements of students, both in and out of school. These achievements are published on the school website or shared during weekly assemblies.
- the Tutor Teachers and Heads of Year (Junior and Senior High) recognising and celebrating students for demonstrating the Qualities of a Riverside student through the pastoral support programme (privately and during tutor time).
- the awarding of certificates at Awards Ceremonies.

The promotion of good behaviour and positive attitude is also acknowledged through the school reports. Younger students are presented with stickers which acknowledge their positive behaviour in school.

Students are encouraged to look for and recognise the best in others.

Statement of General Principles:

- To ensure the whole school community is consulted about the principles of the School Behaviour Policy.
- To establish and communicate clearly measures to ensure good order, respect and discipline.
- To ensure the school Behaviour Policy does not discriminate against any student on, for example, grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, and that it promotes good relations between different communities.
- Raising Standards and Tackling Workload and workforce remodelling agenda so that there is due recognition of the enhanced roles of support staff and not all responsibilities are focused on teachers.
- To ensure staff are clear about the extent of their disciplinary authority and receive necessary professional development on behaviour strategies.
- To support, praise and as appropriate reward students' good behaviour.
- To apply sanctions fairly, consistently, proportionately and reasonably – taking into account of SEN, disability and the needs of vulnerable students and offering support as appropriate.
- To make alternative provision for Fixed Period excluded students and, where appropriate, to arrange reintegration interviews for parents at the end of a fixed period exclusion.
- To take all reasonable measures to protect the safety and wellbeing of staff and students including preventing all forms of bullying and dealing effectively with reports and complaints about bullying.
- To ensure staff model good behaviour and never denigrate students or colleagues.
- To promote positive behaviour through active development of students' social, emotional and behavioural skills.
- To keep parents informed of their child's behaviour – good as well as challenging, use appropriate methods of engaging them and, where necessary, support them in meeting their parental responsibilities.
- To work with other agencies where appropriate to promote community cohesion and safety.

Students:

- To follow reasonable instructions by school staff, obey school rules and accept sanctions in an appropriate way.
- To act as positive ambassadors for the school at all times including when off school premises.
- Not to bring inappropriate or unlawful items to school.
- To show respect to school staff, fellow students, school property and the school environment.
- Never to denigrate, harm or bully other students or staff.
- To cooperate with and abide by any arrangements put in place to support their behaviour such as Pastoral Support Programmes or Parenting Contracts.
- It is important to recognise that behaviour thresholds for some students will be different to those of others. It is our responsibility to ensure that strategies for improving behaviour are matched to the individual need, in order for all students to succeed and have a positive school experience.
- Disciplinary matters are dealt with firmly and fairly by individual teachers and can normally be resolved within this context. However, if we have particular concerns about a student's behaviour we will contact the parents so that together we can resolve the matter.
- Where students understand the rules, know they should follow them, have the social and emotional skills to follow them but fail to do so due to their special educational needs, the school will consider if it is appropriate to exempt them from normal sanctions, or have those sanctions modified so as to be less severe.
- Similarly, Riverside School is to ensure that disabled students are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with students who are not disabled (a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments'). This would include making reasonable adjustments to the statement of principles, school-behaviour policy and disciplinary practices.
- Should any disciplinary action remain unsuccessful or the School does not receive either the co-operation of the student or the support of the parents, the student may be suspended for a period of time. If there is no improvement in behaviour upon return, the student may be expelled at the discretion of the Co-Director and the School Board. In those circumstances, neither the term's tuition payment nor the deposit is refundable.

The following disciplinary actions may be taken:

- We expect students to listen carefully and actively to instructions in lessons. If they do not do so, we ask them either to move to a place nearer the teacher or to a more appropriate place where they will not be distracted. We expect students to try their best in all activities and discuss our expectations.
- If a student is disruptive in class, the teacher quietly and discreetly reprimands him or her. If a student misbehaves repeatedly, we quietly and discreetly discuss the behaviour with the student. If the behaviour persists the student is offered thinking time or time away from the class until they are in a position to return to his/her peer group.
- The safety of the students is paramount in all situations. If a student's behaviour endangers the safety of others, the teacher will prevent the student from taking part for the rest of that session.
- If a student threatens, hurts or bullies another pupil, the class teacher records the incident and the student faces the consequences of their action. If a student repeatedly acts in a way that disrupts or upsets others, the school contacts the student's parents and seeks an appointment in order to discuss the situation, with a view to improving the behaviour of the student.
- Behaviour incidents are recorded in our Behaviour Tracking Document. This is monitored by the Principal/Deputy Principal and Student Welfare Coordinator regularly.
- The class or tutor teacher discusses the Riverside Qualities with each class. In addition, each class may also have its own classroom expectations, which are agreed by the students.
- The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying has taken place, we act immediately to stop any further occurrences of such behaviour. For further information, please see Riverside School's Anti-Bullying Policy.

- A teacher may request a student to stay in at break or lunch time in order to discuss poor behaviour and consider positive strategies for improvement.

The following sanctions may be imposed for more serious incidences of misbehaviour.

- A detention and/or community service may be assigned to a student after regular school hours as a result of misconduct. This can only be authorised by the Principal or member of the leadership team. Because student detention after school hours is considered an exceptional punishment, parents will be notified at least one day in advance.
- Loss of privileges or exclusion from certain activities or areas of school premises. This can only be authorised by the Principal or leadership team member in charge of student welfare.
- A letter to parents or an invitation for them to come into school. This can only be authorised by the Principal or leadership team member in charge of student welfare.
- A student may be placed on Report. Being on Student Report is defined as a period during which a student's behaviour must meet specified standards. Student Report may only be authorised by the Principal after contact with the parents of the student. Both the student and his or her parents are informed in writing of precisely what behaviour is expected, the duration of the Report and the consequences of failing to meet the required standards.
- Suspension - Suspension is defined as the temporary recorded exclusion of the student from school. As it entails an interruption of the student's learning programme, this method of punishment is rare. However, in cases of serious misconduct, or where circumstances are such that it is thought necessary for a student to return home, the Co-Director is authorised to suspend students after contact with the parents of the student.
- Expulsion - In extreme cases of violation of acceptable social behaviour (in the case of severe or persistent bullying or behaviour that endangers others), the Co-Director may expel a student from the School. Parents will be contacted prior to the final decision. The Board is informed of all potential expulsions. In the case of expulsion from the School, prepaid school fees are not refunded. Parents have the right to appeal a suspension or exclusion through the school's appeal procedure.

Review Process:

Date of Review: August 2022

Date of Next Review: August 2023