

MORE HOUSE SCHOOL

BOARDING BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Rationale:

It is important that a consistent approach is applied across the school towards boarders' behaviour during residential hours, and good behaviour is seen to be rewarded and poor behaviour managed appropriately and effectively. In boarding, a clear approach identifying negative behaviours and the school's disciplinary response helps boarders, their parents, carers and school staff to support an inclusive and positive environment for all boarders. We very much work on the premise that *'it is the certainty and not the severity'* of the sanction which is important.

The scheme enables house staff, senior boarding staff and the school's senior managers to follow individual instances and patterns of good and poor behaviour and to respond so that a positive environment is promoted and developed.

Purpose:

- Opportunities for rewarding positive behaviour are championed wherever possible;
- Clear descriptions of behaviour types and the school's disciplinary response are shared with pupils and all boarding staff;
- The staff record all disciplinary sanctions according to the agreed, published processes;
- Senior managers use information to track patterns and trends, so that measures can be put in place to improve outcomes for all residential pupils.

Broad Guidelines:

Rewards:

It is important that positive behaviour is seen to be highlighted, rewarded and encouraged, and to enable this to occur we have built a pupil ethos anchored by the guiding principles of

Kindness-Spirit-Responsibility.

It is our aim in boarding to assist the pupils in working towards embedding these principles into their everyday lives. To this end, each term has a particular focus for the pupils which is discussed and demonstrated:

Michaelmas Term: Spirit

Lent Term: Kindness

Trinity Term: Responsibility

A pupil every week is highlighted to our community for the way in which he has demonstrated the focus principle, with a formal letter being sent home to parents and House Points awarded – in this manner, allowing for a joined-up approach with the daytime pastoral provision.

In addition, staff are encouraged to recognise good behaviour with praise, enthusiasm and rewards.

Individual and group achievements should be reflected at boarding Chapel assemblies and in the boarding corridor meetings. Each boarding house also operates its own individual

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rewards system, with input from the boarders themselves which includes trips, extra activities, house points, treat nights and communications home.

Sanctions:

These are part of any boy's home life and are necessary on occasions in the 'home away from home' environment. Wherever possible, these sanctions have been drawn up in consultation with different groups of pupils such as the Boarding prefect body and members of the Boarders' Council. House staff are also able to discuss the 'Boarding Behaviour Grid' at individual year group meetings in boarding. This is an ongoing process which will be reviewed and re-published at least once each year. The more 'ownership' the boarders have in this process, the clearer they, parents and boarding staff will be in using sanctions when necessary.

Wherever possible, More House boarding operates on the fundamental principle of 'boarding by choice', reflecting the rights of every boarder and their parents. On occasions, however, that choice has to be reviewed in the light of a temporary or more permanent disengagement by a boarder with key routines or acceptable behaviour within school or boarding. With boarders up to and including Year Eleven, the school will endeavour to maintain the full access to weekly or termly boarding, unless parents and / or the placing local authority are supportive of a more flexible arrangement. With Sixth Form boarders, the school can, if circumstances dictate, reduce the boarding entitlement whilst making flexible arrangements for the pupil to access their academic timetable. In exceptional circumstances, the school can remove the boarding placement, whilst continuing to support the pupil's access to their academic commitments.

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Sanctions here refer to those issued in boarding time. All incidents will be logged by house staff, enabling them to monitor trends, support interventions and to support those boys who need extra guidance.

All corridors have these sanctions posted in a visible place with some age-groups having descriptors displayed in different more readable form.

The following lists are not intended to be exhaustive; staff may use their discretion to adapt to specific circumstances. Sanctions for each section may also include those listed for previous sections.

Carried out by House staff

Parents not informed for individual occurrences but may be informed for repeated behaviours.

B1

Behaviours may include

- Unkindness to fellow boarders including low level verbal or physical aggression
- Failure to follow instructions from boarding staff and/or rudeness to boarding staff.
- Lack of work or effort/poor behaviour in prep.
- Lateness (5 minutes or less) to mealtimes, wake-up, activities and bedtimes (including showering) or missing mealtimes without good reason
- Being in a boarding or school area without permission of House staff (during boarding hours)
- Inappropriate language

Sanctions may include

- Warning by house staff
- Loss of privileges, e.g., not allowed electronics/tuck, not allowed in social common room, sent to own room, early bedtime, no treat night.

B2

Behaviours may include

- Repeated B1 behaviours
- Repeated or more serious unkindness to fellow boarders, including verbal or physical aggression
- Repeated failure to follow instructions from boarding staff and/or rudeness to boarding staff
- Swearing or inappropriate language around staff or peers
- Continued lack of work or effort/poor behaviour in prep.
- Damage to or misuse of boarding facilities and/or equipment or fellow boarder's property
- Inappropriate use of technology or social media (e.g., Filming, posting of messages, etc.)
- Out of bed or corridor after lights out without good reason (e.g., sickness)
- Repeated or more significant lateness (more than 5 minutes) to mealtimes, wake-up, activities and bedtimes (including showering) or missing mealtimes without good reason

Sanctions may include

- Option of discussion/meeting with Deputy Head (Head of Residential) or Deputy Head of Residential
- Loss of privileges, e.g., not allowed electronics/tuck, not allowed in social common room, sent to own room, early bedtime. No treat night or village shop option
- Boarding detention

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Carried out by Deputy Head (Head of Residential), Deputy Head of Residential.

B3

Behaviours may include

- Repeated B2 behaviour which isn't improving.
- More serious or repeated unkindness (inc. bullying) towards others in boarding.
- Swearing or inappropriate language directed at staff or peers
- Use of language of a racist or homophobic nature
- Possession of equipment for smoking or vaping, but without use
- More serious or deliberate damage to boarding facilities and/or equipment, or to fellow boarder's property
- Repeated or more serious inappropriate use of technology or social media or Visigo entries (e.g., filming, posting of messages etc.)
- Possession of dangerous object (e.g., penknife or similar) but with no intention to use or threaten
- Repeatedly missing or refusing to attend compulsory boarding meetings or activities.
- Regular attempts to be in a boarding or school area without permission of House staff (during boarding hours)

Sanctions may include (in addition to loss of privileges – see above)

- Formal verbal warning with formal meeting with Deputy Head (Head of Residential) or Deputy Head of Residential.
- Parents informed and Head of Year (HoY) & Form tutor involved
- Boarding detention
- Temporary removal from boarding corridor (internal suspension)
- Option of fixed term exclusion from boarding (1 night or less)

B4

Behaviours may include

- Serious aggression (verbal or physical) towards fellow boarders or house staff
- Repeated B3 behaviour
- Repeated inappropriate use of language with racist or homophobic nature
- Smoking / Vaping
- Vandalism or serious damage to school or fellow boarder's property
- Roof-climbing or similarly deliberately dangerous behaviour
- Off-site without permission
- Serious misuse of social media including cyber-bullying or risky on-line behaviour

Sanctions may include

- Formal verbal warning with written follow-up, letter home and/or meeting with parents by Deputy Head (Head of Residential). Senior daytime pastoral staff notified and involved in follow-up.
- Option of fixed term exclusion from boarding.

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B5

Behaviours may include

- Persistent bullying (on-line or in person)
- Repeated B4 behaviour (specify)
- Repeated or Extreme racism or homophobia
- Theft
- Smoking / Vaping (3rd offence)/ alcohol (**fixed term exclusion**)
- Drugs (possession and / or use) **Permanent exclusion from school**
- Possession of weapon with intent to harm or threaten
- Serious or repeated vandalism

Sanctions will include:

- Temporary exclusion from boarding (and school if appropriate).
- Change of boarding room or corridor.
- Permanent removal of boarding place.

Corporal punishment is illegal and is never used or threatened at More House School.

Conclusion:

Managing discipline to promote a positive residential environment helps all pupils to feel safe and happier, and to develop personally and socially, and this is what we are striving to achieve at More House.

Linked policies:

Alcohol and Substance Misuse policy

Anti-bullying policy

Anti-bullying Strategy

Boarding policy

Behaviour for Learning policy

Exclusions policy

Safeguarding incorporating Child Protection policy