



Dame Alice Owen's School
The Dame Alice Owen Foundation - 1613

BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Agreed by the Governing Body Curriculum Committee
To be reviewed
(reviewed every 2 years)

Summer 2024
Summer 2026

To be monitored by Deputy Head Pastoral, the Pastoral Team and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Aim:

At Dame Alice Owen's School, we want to maintain the positive environment we have in which everyone fulfils their individual potential and develops their self-esteem. We want high quality teaching and learning in lessons, high quality relationships and high quality surroundings. The purpose of this policy is to support the aims of the school community and to ensure that the conduct of all students is consistent with the values the school holds. We welcome and actively seek the support of parents/carers in educating students to behave in a responsible manner. Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all students can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. Schools have a legal right to impose reasonable sanctions if a student misbehaves. The law also provides that behaviour of students outside of school can also be considered as grounds for exclusion.

Our behavioural expectations can be summed up in three words:

1. **Ready.** Students are expected to attend school ready to learn. This means they should attend with all equipment and work required for each lesson and should display outstanding behaviour in class to allow optimum learning.

2. **Respectful.** To treat all others and the environment with respect. To wear the uniform with respect.
3. **Safe.** Ensure that behaviour, on and off line, keeps others and themselves safe.

A fundamental requirement for achieving the above is the on-going maintenance of good discipline and tone in the school. This process is helped by:

- The quality of teaching and learning.
- Courteous relationships between staff and students.
- Clarity about what conduct is/is not approved.
- A just system of rewards and sanctions, which is effectively adhered to and operated by the whole staff.
- The involvement of students in co-curricular activities.
- The support of parents/carers.

Rights and responsibilities of the School, students and parents/carers in ensuring an orderly climate for learning

Schools have the authority to discipline students for breaches of the school code of conduct, failure to follow instructions or other unacceptable behaviour. All teachers and staff in charge of students have the power to sanction.

Schools have the authority to apply sanctions in response to the behaviour of students when off school premises and not supervised by school staff. This includes anytime a student is a representative of the school i.e. in school uniform or where their behaviour brings the school's name into disrepute or impacts on school life e.g. online bullying or other negative online behaviours.

We aim to encourage all staff, students, parents and carers to adopt appropriate positive behaviour through a common responsibility for maintaining good discipline and promoting and implementing the School's Code of Conduct (below) and Home School Agreement and Sixth Form expectations (see Appendix 1). The Code of Conduct is the guiding document for establishing good behaviour in the School. The Home School Agreement is the basis for the establishment of a three-way partnership between student, parent/carer and the School. All students and their parents/carers will be asked to read and sign the Home-School Agreement at the beginning of Year 7.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is based on our expectation that students are ready, respectful and safe.

At school I will be:

Ready by:

- Attending school with all expected equipment and completed work;
- Having collected all books from my locker at registration, break or at the beginning and end of lunch time, as appropriate, and not between lessons;
- Waiting in an appropriate manner for the teacher to arrive/lesson and then entering classrooms in a respectful and orderly way;
- Allowing both the teacher to teach and other students to learn through my exemplary behaviour; and
- Coming to class on time. If I am late I will report the reason to the teacher in an appropriate manner, at an appropriate time.

Respectful by:

- Treating and respecting others as I would like to be treated and respected. This includes listening to the teacher whilst instructions are being given and listening to others when it is their turn to speak;
- Not using terms of abuse, disrespect or rude language;
- Not insulting, abusing or deliberately provoking others;
- Wearing my school uniform correctly and being tidy in appearance;
- Looking after the school buildings and its equipment/resources. This includes eating and drinking only in areas set aside for this and not using chewing or bubble gum;
- Looking after the school environment both inside and outside by not creating litter and picking it up and putting it in the dustbin if I see it on the floor; and
- Being courteous towards others and aware of all users of the school when moving around.

Safe by:

- Not insulting, abusing or provoking others or entering into verbal or physical conflict;

- Not using my phone or other IT in ways which could harm me, or harm or upset others, in any way;
- Adhering, in full, to the ICT code of conduct;
- Not bringing into school, using, sharing or attempting to pass on, in any way, any harmful substance including alcohol, cigarettes, vapes or other drugs or similar substances which could be used in such a manner. This also includes items that could be used as a weapon. Please also see the [Substance Misuse policy](#).

Rewards

We believe that rewarding positive behaviour at Dame Alice Owen's has a significant impact on all aspects of school life as it encourages and acknowledges: good behaviour, high standards of work, as well as good physical and mental wellbeing. It also helps set a positive and encouraging tone for the school. Currently, we use a wide range of rewards that include the following:

- Verbal praise
- Written praise on work
- House points (see the Rewards Ladder Appendix 2)
- Department praise postcards
- Acknowledgement at Year Assemblies with certificates and awards
- Upper and Lower School Assemblies with certificates and awards
- Annual School Awards Evening: our 'Visitation' ceremony
- Headteacher's Commendation
- Subject or Year Postcards sent home from individual teachers
- Telephone call, emails and letters home to parents and carers
- Notes in planners

House System

Our House System was re-introduced in September 2019 to:

- improve the sense of community within the school
- improve inter-year relationships
- further develop student character and leadership opportunities

Every student can earn points for their House through a range of different ways, such as:

- Achievement in academic work
- Effort, commitment to learning
- Participating and achieving in competitions throughout the year
- Community service within school

House points are collated, through SIMS and Edulink One, by the Pastoral Administrator and monitored by the Head of Houses. Point tallies are circulated every half term and students are regularly kept up to date to celebrate achievement.

There are House Assemblies every half term which are led by the Sixth Form House Captains. A variety of achievements of the past half term are celebrated in these assemblies.

The House notice boards inform students of house scores and events. The House which has earned the most points throughout the year is presented with the House Cup to the House Captains at the end of year whole school assembly.

Behaviour for Learning (inside the classroom)

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LEARN BUT NO-ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO STOP OTHERS FROM LEARNING.

Lower level problems are dealt with by class teachers and their Heads of Departments (HoDs), while the more serious difficulties (including those occurring across a number of subjects) are dealt with by the Pastoral Team. The most serious issues are referred to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Both teachers and students have a responsibility for maintaining a positive learning climate for learning in the classroom. Class teachers will ensure that their classroom is a positive learning environment that has clear routines and expectations. Teachers are encouraged to use the de-escalation flow chart when dealing with any challenging behaviour (Appendix 4) Teachers are expected to:

- Deal with an issue as it occurs.
- Take account of individual needs, age, understanding and circumstance.
- Log the incident on SIMS or Edulink One if appropriate, ensuring that the student is aware of the action and why it is being recorded.
- Make clear they are sanctioning behaviour, rather than making a judgement about the person.
- Avoid early escalation to severe sanctions, reserving these for the most serious or persistent misbehaviour.
- Avoid whole group sanctions that punish the innocent as well as the guilty.
- Never issue a sanction that is purposefully humiliating or degrading.
- Use sanctions in a calm and controlled manner.

- Any incident that prevents the sustained learning of others should receive an SLT callout.

Social Behaviour

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that this policy is consistently applied.

This responsibility applies before school, between lessons, during morning break, lunch and after school. Students on their way to school from home or on their way back home from school, as well as on school journeys, are ambassadors of the school. Students are representing the school and are responsible for the reputation of the school at all times. Poor behaviour during any of these times will be challenged and appropriate sanction issued. Any of the following sanctions may be used by the school as appropriate for misbehaviour inside or outside the classroom, a serious incident will include the involvement of SLT or duty team. The Consequence Ladder (Appendix 3) provides a guide to likely sanctions for misconduct (this list is not exhaustive):

- Verbal reprimand or warning.
- A SIMS/ EduLink entry as soon as possible, if appropriate.
- Detentions at break, lunchtime or after school.
- Withdrawal of privilege.
- Internal inclusion.
- Being placed on report in lessons and/or social times.
- Suspension.
- Permanent exclusion.

At Dame Alice Owen's, we have very high expectations of behaviour for learning. The Consequence Ladder (Appendix 3) is non-exhaustive and a guide to the level and type of behaviour that will incur consequences. Staff will award consequences at their discretion. It may be that behaviour listed at a certain level in the ladder is, in the instance, more/less serious and that a higher/lower consequence will be issued.

Investigation

Incidents will normally be investigated by a student's Pastoral Director, Head of Department or members of the Senior Leadership Team. When investigating any incident the member of staff responsible will ensure that the following protocols are adhered to:

- statements where relevant will be taken from the students and adults involved in the incident. In addition, statements will be taken from as many students or adults as the member of staff investigating the incident feels is necessary to be satisfied

that they have an accurate picture of what transpired. In order to ensure accuracy, occasionally students may need to be removed from lessons whilst an investigation is being completed. During removal, the rules that apply to 'internal inclusion' apply to ensure the integrity of the statements.

- If necessary, photos or CCTV footage of the incident will be viewed as part of the investigation.
- Any statements taken should be signed and dated and the student to confirm that they have written the statement themselves and are satisfied with what they have written.
- If a student is unable to write their own statement, they will dictate it to an appropriate adult. This could be a Pastoral Director or Manager, Form Tutor, Learning Mentor, a member of the Safeguarding Team or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Where a statement is dictated to an appropriate adult, this will be indicated on the statement but the student will still sign the statement themselves to indicate that they agree with what has been written.

Once the investigation has been completed Pastoral staff will review the evidence and make a decision on the sanction that should be applied. If suspension or exclusion is felt to be appropriate, the Headteacher will review the evidence and make the final decision. Parents / Carers will be contacted following the conclusion of an investigation to inform them of the outcome.

The standard of proof to be applied is the balance of probabilities, i.e. if it is more probable than not that the student did what they are alleged to have done, then sanctions will apply.

Sanctions

Sanctions are necessary for students who behave inappropriately and choose not to follow the School Code of Conduct. We believe that it is our responsibility to both sanction and support those students so that they can make better behavioural choices in the future. As such, all adults and students are expected to use the opportunities provided within the sanctions system to look to resolve the issues that have led to the inappropriate behaviour. There is an onus on all members of the school community to be responsible for their own behaviour; this applies to school staff who we expect to maintain a professional approach in managing their own behaviour and in modelling expected behaviours when intervening and interacting with students. On deciding the appropriate sanction, the school needs to:

- Take account of all sides in issues between students;
- Consider any mitigating factors/reasonable adjustments which the student or member of staff believes need to be made;
- Act on the balance of probabilities as to what has happened;
- Apply the principles of restorative justice where possible and appropriate;

- Apply what the school believes to be the most appropriate sanction to obtain the desired outcome; and
- Recognise the need to make adjustments based on specific needs and circumstances of an individual when deciding the most appropriate sanction.

Students are expected to be able to display appropriate and respectful behaviour to all members of the school community at all times. Sanctions for inappropriate or poor behaviour may include, but are not limited to, the following;

- **Class teacher detention at break or lunchtime.** Students who are subject to a lunchtime detention will be allowed to get or eat food and use the toilet.
- **Class teacher after school detention.** When issuing this detention, the parent/carer will be given 24 hours' notice of the detention. This sanction must be logged on SIMS or Edulink One.
- **Department after school detention issued by HoD.** When issuing this detention, the parent/carer will be given 24 hours' notice of the detention. This sanction must be logged on SIMS or Edulink One.
- **Department lesson internal inclusion. Issued by HoD.** The parent/carer will receive an email home informing them of this sanction and its duration. Students sit in an allocated place, decided on by HoD, during the time of the normal lesson. Students will be given subject specific work to complete at this time in line with their peers in class where possible.
- **One hour school detentions.** These are set by Pastoral Directors or a HoD and can be held at lunchtime or after school. Parents/carers will receive 24 hours notice of these detentions if these are to be held after school.
- **SLT detention.** 2 hours which takes place on a Wednesday after school. This is issued if a student does not attend a School detention without a valid reason. It may also be used for repeated poor behaviour or poor behaviour within a school detention. Parents/carers will receive 24 hours notice of these detentions;
- **Students may be required to attend school on an INSET day;** 24 hours warning will be given.
- The School can include **confiscation of students' property or removal of privileges** as a disciplinary sanction.

If you disagree with the way your child's been sanctioned, first talk to the Headteacher. If you are not satisfied, please then refer to our [complaints policy](#).

Missing a Sanction

There will be an escalation of an applied sanction if the student fails to complete the initial sanction, unless a reasonable reason is offered by the parent/carer, in which case it can be rescheduled or fails to complete the initial sanction respectfully. The ladder of escalation is as below:

- Social time detention (break or lunchtime).
- Teacher set after school detention.
- Department lunchtime or after school detention.
- Wednesday night SLT detention.
- Internal Inclusion
- Suspension
- Permanent Exclusion

SLT callout

SLT callout should be used when a student's behaviour is preventing others from learning, when a student is persistent in their refusal to follow an instruction or when an incident is deemed too serious to be dealt with by an individual teacher. Reception should be informed and they will then inform the Senior Staff responsible.

- The student should be removed by a member of SLT/Senior Member of Staff.
- The student should then write a statement detailing their actions and then complete any appropriate work.
- The student will not have access to any electronic device, unless it is specifically needed to complete any work.
- The student would not normally be allowed to return to the lesson but would be supervised by the member of staff doing the callout.
- The teacher who requested the callout will complete a statement at their first possible opportunity.
- The student would normally be allowed to return to the subsequent lessons, on the judgement of the senior staff involved.

- The appropriate sanction will be applied by the Deputy Headteacher/Pastoral Director. Parents will be informed of the sanction as below.
- The teacher and HoD will be informed of the sanction.

Removal from the classroom is considered a serious sanction and should only be used when necessary and once other behavioural strategies in the classroom have been attempted, unless the behaviour is so extreme as to warrant immediate removal. SLT will aim to support a restorative return to learning. Parents will be informed on the same day if their child is removed from the classroom. Where students are taken out of class for non-disciplinary reasons this is not considered a removal from lessons. For instance, where a student is taken out of the classroom to regulate their emotions because of identified sensory overload as part of a planned response.

Internal Inclusion

This is set by a Pastoral Director or a member of SLT. When the decision has been made to internally include a student an email will be sent home detailing the reason for the internal inclusion. Internal inclusions can be set for part days or for one or more days. When on internal inclusion students are expected to:

- Report to the Pastoral Office.
- Hand over all electronic devices for safe keeping.
- The internal inclusion will take place in SALC (Self Access Learning Centre) where there will be a member of staff who will supervise the student.
- The student must remain under the direction of the supervising member of staff until the end of the day.
- Appropriate work will be set and completed by the student. The student will also undertake a reflective task and may also meet with key staff members to reflect with the student to identify what they can do to improve and avoid such behaviour in the future.

Failure to follow instructions during internal inclusion will be seen as a serious breach of discipline and will result in further internal inclusions or in a suspension.

Suspensions

The Headteacher (Deputy Headteacher in their absence) may choose to suspend a student. Individual letters are prepared by the Headteacher (Deputy Headteacher in their absence), copies of which are kept on file and also sent to the Chair of Governors. Where possible work is set on Google Classroom for students during their suspension. For suspensions of more than five school days, the governing board must arrange suitable full-time education for any pupil

of compulsory school age. This provision is commonly called alternative provision and must begin no later than the sixth school day of the suspension.

For permanent exclusions, the local authority must arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil to begin from the sixth school day after the first day the permanent exclusion took place. This will be the student's 'home authority' in cases where the school is in a different local authority area. For more detailed guidance, please refer to our suspensions and exclusion policy.

Permanent Exclusion

In very serious breaches of conduct or persistent cases of misconduct, the Headteacher may issue a permanent exclusion of a student. Permanent exclusion is, however, very rarely considered and used only as a last resort. Strategies to avoid permanent exclusion may include, but are not limited to, the following;

- Use of mentor
- Outreach worker
- School counsellor
- Report cards
- EHCP review (where appropriate)
- Pupil Support Programme (PSP)

First or one off offences which could lead to permanent exclusion.

The following list is indicative but not exhaustive:

- Serious actual or threatened violence;
- Sexual harassment/assault;
- Supplying, giving, using or bringing drugs, mind altering or intoxicating substances onto the school site;
- Creating 'deep fake' images online;
- Carrying an offensive weapon.

The School pays close attention to all equality considerations when considering permanent exclusion.

For further information about suspensions and permanent exclusions, please see our [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy](#).

Mobile Phones

Following the new DfE Mobile phones in schools guidance, mobile phones or similar devices are not to be seen or heard at Dame Alice Owen's School. Teachers are permitted to allow students to use a mobile device in a classroom when strictly under the supervision of the class teacher. Mobile phones at all other times must not be seen or heard and must be switched off. Smart watches can be used to tell the time only and students are not permitted to use smart watches to send and receive messages or make a call. If parents / carers need to get an urgent message to a student, they must email studentmessage@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk

If a mobile phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) and a sanction will be logged. The mobile phone will be available for the student to collect from reception at the end of the day. If a student persistently has a mobile phone confiscated, parents and carers will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the reception and it will not be handed back to the student.

If a student refuses to hand a mobile phone over to a member of staff, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be called and this will result in more serious sanctions. In the case of an emergency school closure or plan change- a member of staff can direct students to use their phones. The use of mobile phones on trips will be permitted only under the direction of the trip leader.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in a locked safety deposit box and will then be transferred to the main school office during the last lesson of the day.

Sixth Form students are allowed to use mobile phones or similar devices in the sixth form block and the Sixth Form cafe to reflect their increased independence and responsibility, but must not compromise our policy on the use of mobile phones for other students. Misuse of mobile phones in the sixth form will lead to sanctions.

Students with exceptional circumstances may be permitted to use a mobile phone and this will be agreed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team on a case-by-case basis.

Certain types of conduct while using a mobile phone such as bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

Homework

Non-completion of homework will result in a SIMS / Edulink One log. Staff will apply appropriate sanctions.

Uniform infringements

If a student fails to adhere to the uniform or sixth form dress code, then the following action will be taken:

- 3 x C1 Uniform/dress code infringement- an alert will be sent home
- 6 x C1 Uniform/dress code infringement - School (Lunchtime) Detention (1 hour)
- 9 x C1 Uniform/dress code infringement- After School Detention (1 hour)
- 12 x C1 Uniform/dress code infringement- SLT Detention (2 hours) Wednesday + parental meeting to take place
- For every further 3 entries a SLT Detention (2 hours) will be set

Punctuality to School

If a student is late to school in the morning, students will receive a detention at breaktime that same day unless there are extenuating circumstances that we are made aware of.

If a student fails to attend the detention that day, the sanction is escalated to a lunchtime detention. Failure to attend the lunchtime detention would result in a two hour SLT detention.

All late marks to school are tracked and recorded. Any student who has more than 6 lates per half term will be invited for a meeting with their Parents / Carers and a member of the Pastoral Team.

Punctuality to lessons

If a student is late to a lesson, then the following action will be taken:

- 3 x C1 Late with no valid reason - Alert home
- 6 x C1 Late with no valid reason - School (Lunchtime) Detention (1 hour) Friday
- 9 x C1 Late with no valid reason - After School Detention (1 hour) Friday
- 12 x C1 Late with no valid reason - SLT Detention (2 hours) Wednesday + parental meeting to take place
- For every further 3 entries a SLT Detention (2 hours) will be set.

Damage to Property

If a student damages school property, or property belonging to another student, the School may ask the parents/carers for a contribution towards the cost of the replacement. An appropriate school sanction will also be applied.

Child on Child Abuse (including sexual violence and harassment)

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Our aim is to support these students to access their education and get the correct specialist support, working in partnership with the police and children's services.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence and any form of child on child abuse. It is never acceptable, will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". We will always challenge behaviour or language that seeks to normalise sexual harassment, sexual violence or child on child abuse in school and we educate students to this end through Learning 4 Life, assemblies and where appropriate, external agencies.

Our aim is for students to be confident in reporting abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously and that students can safely express their views and give feedback. Students are encouraged to report anything that makes them uncomfortable. We have a number of different reporting options available to students:

- Speak to an adult in school. This could be a form tutor, member of the Pastoral Team, Safeguarding team or any member of staff they feel comfortable with.
- Anonymous Post. There are two boxes in school that are regularly checked. These can be found in the reception area and in the stairwell of the Admin block.
- Via the Student Launchpad on the school intranet. Students can report incidents via Google Form or email.

When a student reports child on child abuse including sexual harassment and/or violence, our response will be:

- Proportionate
- Considered
- Supportive
- Decided on a case-by-case basis

- With due consideration for the person who has reported harm.

The school has procedures in place to respond to any allegations or concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing. These include processes for:

- Responding to a report
- Carrying out risk assessments, where appropriate, to help determine whether to:
 - Manage the incident internally
 - Refer to early help
 - Refer to children's social care
 - Report to the police

Sanctions for incidents of sexual harassment and/or violence will be determined based upon the specific nature of the offence but may result in permanent exclusion in the most serious cases.

Please refer to our [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) for more information.

Hateful Language

The school does not accept the use of any language which makes others feel persecuted, belittled or harmed in any way. The use of such language, whether it be racist such as, but not limited to the N word and its derivatives, sexist or homophobic, will result in appropriate sanctions for the student that uses it. These sanctions will range from education and correction to the most severe sanctions for repeated directed verbal assault. Sanctions will reflect the circumstances in which such terms were used.

Bullying

Our school Anti-Bullying Governor is Adrian Sykes and our school anti-bullying lead is Mrs V Blackburn (Deputy Headteacher Pastoral)

We view any kind of bullying as totally unacceptable and believe that all staff, parents and students should be affronted by such behaviour. Bullying diminishes the whole community, not just the victim.

Bullying is defined as repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online.

Bullying can be manifested in a physical, verbal, online, direct or indirect manner. Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful

- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being purposefully unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobic/biphobic • Transphobic • Disability-based 	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Online bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites

Indirect bullying would include spreading rumours and social exclusion. Also, when the use of 'jokes' or 'banter' is used to demean a student.

We recognise one of the obstacles in tackling bullying is the use of terms such as 'snake' or 'snitch' which can act as a barrier to students reporting bullying or providing support to a victim. We recognise that the use of these terms is an act of intimidation in itself and we will treat all students using this kind of terminology with the appropriate sanction.

We aim to empower students to 'do the right thing' and to ensure that they understand the important role they can have in offering support to their peers as well as the importance of not being a bystander.

The strategies for reducing instances of bullying include but are not limited to:
Addressing bullying in 'Learning for Life' lessons, discussing bullying in tutor time and through assemblies;

- Anti bullying captains in every form group;
- Undertaking work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance;
- Raising awareness through anti-bullying week;
- Consulting the School Council;
- Monitoring of vulnerable areas of the School during duties.
- Use of concerns@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk email address to allow students to report incidents

The whole school plays a role when bullying occurs. This can include the involvement of the Pastoral Team who:

- Discuss best course of action for all parties;
- Involve parents/carers;
- Give students multiple opportunities and strategies for reporting and dealing with bullying
- Check with all parties, at a suitable frequency, to ensure the bullying has stopped. Take appropriate action if it has been repeated; and
- Record incident in the bullying log on the Pastoral shared area in sufficient depth for analysis, action and evaluation
- With regard to online bullying, referrals are made to service providers where possible/online protection agency where appropriate.

Students can also be offered:

- Peer support;
- Active listening and use of the school counsellor

All staff are expected to:

- Be alert on duty - especially around play areas, toilets and corridors;
- Model the key values and appropriate conduct expected of all members of the school community;
- Give students multiple opportunities for reporting bullying; and

- Be vigilant in lessons for possible signs of bullying.
- Challenge students when they notice unkind or bullying behaviours sharing the information with the pastoral team for further investigation and action required

Students are expected to:

- Report bullying concerns in an appropriate way;
- Model the key values and appropriate conduct expected of all members of the school community;
- Not to use intimidatory language like 'snake' and 'snitch'; and
- Support those who may have been victims of unkind behaviours.

Parents/Carers can support the school by:

- Discouraging their child from using bullying behaviour at home or elsewhere;
- Watch out for signs that their child is being bullied or is bullying others (families are often the first to notice changes in behaviour); and
- Contact the school (Form tutor and/or member of Pastoral Team) if there is concern that their child is bullying or being bullied.

Opportunities presented in line with those of Restorative Justice

We seek to work with students to help them take responsibility for their actions and seek to ensure that action taken by the school to incidents of infringement of our behaviour policy are tailored to fit the incident itself rather than a 'one size fits all approach'. We use the principles associated with 'restorative justice' that lead the perpetrator towards understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions where it is considered to be beneficial and there is consent from all parties to do so. This normally takes the form of a mediated meeting and will normally involve an apology from the perpetrator towards the victim.

If a student has a School Detention, Internal Inclusion, or Suspension then the student will have a reflection process. There are specific reflection forms for School Detention and Internal Inclusion that the student completes and then discusses with a member of SLT or Pastoral Team. After a Suspension, a reintegration meeting would usually be held with the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher along with a member of the Pastoral Team, the student and their parents/carers.

If a student's behaviour falls below the expected standard towards a member of staff, then a restorative/reflection meeting with the student and the member of staff will be part of the process.

When the behaviour relates to damage/theft of school or personal property, we will ask for a contribution towards the replacement of the property and/or restoring the damage.

Physical Restraint

Rarely do staff at Dame Alice Owen's School have to intervene physically to reinstate control or restrain a student.

The law allows all adults who are authorised by the Headteacher to be responsible for students to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a student from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

Definition of terms used:

- **Use of reasonable force** covers a broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with students and should be reasonable in the circumstances. This means using no more force than is needed. Schools generally use force to control students and to restrain them.
- **Force** is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a student to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- **Control** means either passive physical contact, such as standing between students or blocking a student's path. It can also be active physical contact such as leading a student by the arm out of a classroom.
- **Restraint** means to hold back physically or to bring a student under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two students are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

Staff are not required to employ any physical intervention strategy if they are not comfortable or confident to do so effectively. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

In all circumstances where physical intervention is or may become required, staff should ensure that adult assistance is requested before intervention, although it is understood that circumstances may lead to the need for intervention prior to the assistance arriving.

Staff considering the use of reasonable force or restraint must provide opportunity for the student to alter their behaviour/actions before using a physical intervention strategy and should continue to make instructions to the student and details of their intended interventions clear. The method of physical intervention used by using the minimum reasonable force for the minimum length of time.

Recording Physical Intervention

All incidents where staff feel they have used force to modify behaviour or conduct should be recorded. It is not necessary to record every incident of such contact with a student, but where a member of staff perceives that this contact has been received negatively, they are advised to record the circumstances.

All incidents of physical intervention should be submitted by email to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and then to the Deputy Head of Pastoral Care. The Headteacher will be

informed of the intervention that has taken place. It is the responsibility of the intervening member of staff to report the use of the intervention on the day that the intervention took place. The circumstances and nature of the physical intervention will be held on the record of the student involved.

The DSL will inform any necessary agencies/authorities of the physical intervention in accordance with DFE and LA guidance. The Headteacher will ensure that parents/carers are appropriately informed.

All complaints about the use of force will be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated. Complaints about the use of force should be made in accordance with our [Complaints Policy](#).

For the safeguarding of both staff and students, any subsequent investigation of the situation/incident should be undertaken by a member of staff other than the one applying the physical intervention.

When a complaint is made, the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove their allegations are true. It is not for the member of staff to show that they have acted reasonably.

Further information can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

Searching and Confiscation

On occasions, staff may have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is in possession of an item or items which contravene school regulations and could potentially cause harm to the student or others. Further details can be found in our [Substance Misuse Policy](#).

The list of prohibited items is:

- knives and weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- psychoactive substances;
- high caffeine products inc energy drinks;
- stolen items;
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - to commit an offence, or
 - to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the student)
- tobacco, nicotine and nicotine free pouches or alike as well as any other smoking or vaping paraphernalia and nitrous oxide
- fireworks; and
- pornographic images and 'deep fake' images

Only the headteacher or a member of SLT can undertake a search. The DSL will be informed of any searching incidents. The member of staff conducting the search must be the same sex as the student being searched and there will always be another member of staff present as

a witness to the search. There is a limited exception to this rule. This is that the member of staff can search a student of the opposite sex and/or without a witness present only:

- if the member of staff carrying out the search reasonably believes there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not carried out as a matter of urgency; and
- in the time available, it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out by a member of staff who is the same sex as the pupil or it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out in the presence of another member of staff.

When a member of staff conducts a search without a witness they should immediately report this to another member of staff, and ensure a record of the search is kept.

The member of staff conducting the search must not require the student to remove any clothing other than the outer clothing. 'Outer clothing means any item of clothing that is not worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear, as well as hats, shoes or scarves.

Strip searches can only be carried out on the school site by police. While the decision to undertake a strip search itself and its conduct are police matters, school staff will retain a duty of care to the student involved and will advocate for student wellbeing. Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

Recognising the impact of SEND on Behaviour

Dame Alice Owen's School recognises that students' behaviour may be impacted by a special educational need or disability (SEND).

When incidents of misbehaviour arise, we will consider them in relation to a student's SEND, although we recognise that not every incident of misbehaviour will be connected to their SEND and the school will use its judgement on the facts of the situation as stated in [Behaviour in schools 2024 advice set out by the DfE](#). Decisions on whether a student's SEND had an impact on the incident of misbehaviour will be made on a case-by-case basis.

When dealing with misbehaviour from students with SEND, especially where their SEND affects their behaviour, the school will balance their legal duties when making decisions about enforcing the behaviour policy. The legal duties include:

Taking reasonable steps to avoid causing any substantial disadvantage to a disabled student caused by the school's policies or practices ([Equality Act 2010](#)) Using our best endeavours to meet the needs of pupils with SEND ([Children and Families Act 2014](#))

If a student has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, the provisions set out in that plan will be secured and the school will cooperate with the local authority and other bodies

As part of meeting these duties, the school will anticipate, as far as possible, all likely triggers of misbehaviour, and put in place support to prevent these from occurring. Any

preventative measures will take into account the specific circumstances and requirements of the pupil concerned.

As a school, staff will support students by anticipating and removing triggers of misbehaviour for SEND students. Reasonable adjustments will be applied where applicable, these may include examples such as:

- Short, planned movement breaks for a pupil with SEND who finds it difficult to sit still for long
- Adjusting seating plans to allow a pupil with visual or hearing impairment to sit in sight of the teacher
- Adjusting uniform requirements for a pupil with sensory issues or who has severe eczema or similar
- Training for staff in understanding conditions such as autism
- Use of separation spaces where pupils can regulate their emotions during a moment of sensory overload

Adapting sanctions for students with SEND

When considering a behavioural sanction for a student with SEND, the school will take into account:

- Whether the student was unable to understand the rule or instruction
- Whether the student was unable to act differently at the time as a result of their SEND
- Whether the student is likely to behave aggressively due to their particular SEND

Dame Alice Owen's School will assess on an individual basis if it is appropriate to sanction and if so, whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the sanction.

Appendix 1



Dame Alice Owen's School
The Dame Alice Owen Foundation - 1613

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Name of student _____

The success of Dame Alice Owen's School is due in part to our sense of belonging to a community with shared values. Our Home-School Agreement is a more formal way in which we can cement our sense of belonging. Together we can forge a confident and effective partnership based on a clarification of the roles and duties of everyone who makes up our community and aspires to the highest educational and personal standards. Therefore, all are invited to read very carefully and then sign it to make their commitment.

The School

We will do our utmost to:

- ensure your child's safety and happiness
- ensure that your child achieves their full potential as a valued member of the school community
- provide a balanced curriculum and meet the individual needs of your child subject to the requirements of the National Curriculum
- achieve high standards of work and behaviour through building good relationships and developing a sense of responsibility and duty
- contact parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality homework or equipment
- let parents know of any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour
- report regularly to parents
- set, mark and monitor homework
- arrange Parents' Evenings during which progress will be discussed

- keep parents informed about school activities through InTouch, the school website, newsletters and notices about special events.

The Parents/Carers

I will/We will do our utmost to:

- see that my/our child attends every school session on time and properly dressed and equipped
- avoid taking my/our child out of school during term-time without the School's express consent
- make the School aware of any concerns or problems that might affect my/our child's work or behaviour
- support the School's policies, guidelines for behaviour and sanctions
- support the School's policies and guidelines for homework including adherence to the School's curriculum expectations at every Key Stage
- attend Parents' Evenings and discussions about my/our child's progress
- get to know about my/our child's life at the school.

The Student

I will do my utmost to:

- Respect the school rules of ready, respectful, safe
- Attend school with all expected equipment and completed work
- Allow both the teacher to teach and other students to learn through my exemplary behaviour
- Treat and respect others as I would like to be treated and respected both in my physical and verbal behaviour
- Wear my school uniform correctly and being tidy in appearance
- Look after the school buildings and its equipment/resources
- Only eat in designated areas
- Not use chewing or bubble gum

- Look after the school environment both inside and outside by not creating litter
- Be courteous towards others and aware of all users of the school when moving around
- Not using my phone or other IT in ways that could harm me, or others, in any way
- Respect the rules regarding electronic devices*
- Attend school regularly and on time
- Contribute generally to school life

Signed _____ Student

Dated _____

Signed _____ Parent/Carer

Dated _____

Signed  Headteacher



Sixth Form Expectations

Uniform

- Wear sixth form lanyard at all times
- Dress as expected in the sixth form dress code; as if you are going to an interview

Attendance

- Tap in when entering site, and tap out on leaving
- Contact attendance@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk when absent from school for the day, or from any lesson. Copy in your Head of Year/Pastoral Manager
- Discuss any planned absence with the Head of Year/Pastoral Manager, and follow the process of obtaining permission from the teachers whose lessons are affected via the Absence Request form
- Attend all timetabled sessions, including lessons, assemblies, Futures lessons and SALC sessions punctually
- Make university visits and other appointments outside the school day

The Sixth Form block

- No food or drink may be consumed anywhere in the J block except for the sixth form common room
- Treat the sixth form block with respect, and leave the space tidy and free of litter
- Treat all equipment in the 6th form block with respect and to report any accidental damage immediately to a member of staff
- If borrowing equipment from the 6th form office to take personal responsibility for returning it

Phone and Computer Usage

- You can use a phone or headphones in the Common Room and Sixth Form Cafe, 'but these are not to be seen or heard anywhere else on the school campus unless under the direction of a member of staff
- Chromebooks should be booked through a member of staff and never removed from a trolley
- Be careful with your passwords, and don't share your login with others

Deliveries

- No items may be delivered to school, to include fast food orders (without the express permission of a member of the sixth form team if it is for an event after the school day has finished.)
- No items may be delivered to our neighbours' addresses and intercepted to get around the point above

Driving to school

- Be aware of parking restrictions and not park in the entrance to Bridgefoot Lane
- Remember that driving around with no reason or purpose just to pass the time is dangerous for young drivers and is an inappropriate use of lesson time

Use of study periods and breaks

- Use study periods effectively
- Recognise that other lessons are going on when you may not have one, and to avoid causing any disturbance

- Complete 15 hours of independent study each week outside lesson time
- Note that the area opposite the school, Bridgefoot Lane, the fields to the left and secluded area to the right are out of bounds for students at all times

Communication

- Check emails and the sixth form google classroom stream daily, this is in place of daily form time
- Do the tasks on Google Classroom which are in place of attending a daily form time
- Arrange and keep to timetabled personal tutor appointments
- Share any concerns with the school in an appropriate and constructive way - we want you to have a positive sixth form experience, if we can improve on it or any aspect of the school, come and speak to us

The school community

- Be courteous and helpful to all staff members and students around school site
- Arrange to help out with at least one activity in the main school, e.g. helping in a lesson, a club or similar
- Be mindful of the needs of younger students on School buses - if the buses are overcrowded, 6th formers must give priority to younger students so they can get to the station safely
- Have respect for each other, and for yourself

Banned Products

- Not bring onto campus any item that may cause harm to yourself or others, except for usual school equipment like geometry sets
- Not bring onto campus, or use in school or public transport, any smoking paraphernalia, including cigarettes, tobacco, papers, pouches, lighters, or vapes of any kind
- No alcohol or illicit drugs or psychoactive substances of any type may be brought or used on campus, or during the school day, at any school events, or on the journey to or from school

These lists are not exhaustive. Anything else that is antisocial, dangerous, disrespectful or brings the name of the school into disrepute will not be tolerated

And if students are not meeting the school's expectations, they may expect:

- Sixth Form sanctions to be issued at the request of a member of staff, teacher, Head of Year or Head of Sixth Form
- To be removed from lessons if not dressed in accordance with the sixth form dress code
- To be assigned additional hours of silent study if not making use of study periods
- To be placed on monitoring with the pastoral manager or Head of Year for additional meetings and support
- Restrictions to be placed on their privileges as a Sixth Form student
- To be invited to a meeting, with parents/carers, to review their progress
- That suspension and permanent exclusion from school may be used if necessary

Appendix 2

Rewards Ladder

House Points awarded to Individual students. (The list below are non-exhaustive)

In Lessons	Staff	House Points	School contribution	Staff
Excellent work in a lesson Excellent homework Leadership Skills Significant improvement in effort	Subject Teacher	R1-4	Act of kindness No consequences in a week Leadership skills Extra-curricular contribution	Form Tutor
Excellent work during a whole unit	Subject Teacher	R5	Participating in an assembly Meeting school attendance targets High quality representation of the school	Form Tutor/ Pastoral Director
Exceeding expectation	Subject Teacher	R10	No Consequences in a half-term Contribution to an extra-curricular club Community excellence Contributing to a charity event Notable act of kindness Pastoral Director award Notable leadership	Pastoral Director/ Staff running club
Consistent improvement in ATL	Pastoral Director or Head of Department	R20	Exceptional act of kindness 100% attendance Exceptional leadership No consequences for a term Exceptional leadership	All
Subject Student of the Year	Head of Department	R30	Head Teacher's Commendation	Head Teacher
Award at visitation	Head of Department	R40	Initiating and leading a charity event Very exceptional leadership with notable impact	All

House Points awarded to Groups of Students

In all cases, points are awarded by the Coordinator of the House System	
Form-based House Charity Event 30 House Points	
Production of a House, Year or School assembly 30 House Points	
Any Inter-House year group Competition First Place 200 House Points Second Place 150 House Points Third Place 125 House Points Fourth Place 100 House Points	Any Inter-House whole school Competition First Place 500 House Points Second Place 400 House Points Third Place 300 House Points Fourth Place 250 House Points



Consequences Ladder

Level	Incident	Likely consequence	Staff Responsible
VW	Talking/preventing others from learning despite a friendly warning, Minor uniform infringement, silly behaviour, lack of subject equipment that prevents learning, lack of response to a friendly reminder from a member of staff	Verbal warning and a restorative conversation that clearly sets out DAOS expectations	All staff
C1	Lack of response to/ repetition of behaviour following a verbal warning , eating in lessons/corridors, non-completion of home learning, low level inappropriate language/behaviour, low level disruption, arguing with students, minor uniform/ dress code infringement, repeated lack of subject specific equipment, poor attitude to learning	C1A (where the behaviour was in class, sanction is managed by the teacher) Teacher reprimands and logs on SIMs or Edulink, Teacher detention 15-30 Minutes C1B (where a member of staff notices behaviour away from lesson) Teacher reprimands and logs on SIMs or Edulink, detention generated centrally and overseen by the Pastoral Team	All Staff
C2	Failure to attend a C1 detention, failure to follow instructions, repeated use of low level inappropriate language or behaviour, low level rudeness to staff or students, chewing gum, persistent lateness to lessons, persistent non-compliance with uniform/dress code rules, being in the vicinity of smokers/ vapers, removal from lesson by Head of Department, dropping litter, abuse of social media, Use of a mobile phone or headphones in the building*, deliberate unkindness	Lunchtime reflection or after school reflection	Pastoral Director / Head of Department
C3	Continued C2 behaviour , Rudeness to staff/ Students, failure to attend/disrupting a C2 detention, damage to school/ other's property, refusal to follow instructions, persistent refusal to follow uniform/ dress code, inappropriate language or behaviour, graffiti, possession of smoking/vaping equipment, inciting others to fight/ attending a pre-arranged fight, removal from a lesson by SLT, internal truancy, serious abuse of social media, persistent use of a mobile phone in the building*, deliberate unkindness	Reflect and restore session with SLT (2 Hours) Or Removal of privileges	Pastoral Director / Head of Department
C4	Continued C3 behaviour , Escalating disruption to lessons, failure to attend/disrupting a C3 detention, fighting, bullying, deliberate defiance, smoking/vaping, truancy, serious inappropriate behaviour or language towards a member of staff or student (including racist, misogynistic, negative comments about hair colour and homophobic language), behaviour that compromises the safety of others, behaviour outside school that brings the school name into disrepute	Intervention Day(s) - removal from lessons for a period of time and time provided to undertake an intervention to support modifying behaviour.	Senior Leadership Team
C5	Continued C4 behaviour , failure to comply with the conditions of an internal suspension, swearing at or about a member of staff, intimidation of a member of staff or student, theft, possession and/or consumption of alcohol on site, persistent bullying, more serious or repeated behaviour outside of school which brings the school name into disrepute but does not yet warrant permanent exclusion, behaviour that seriously disrupts the school day.	Fixed term suspension - This decision will be made by the Head Teacher or members of the Senior Leadership Team deputising for the Head Teacher. This is an official suspension and will be recorded permanently on the student's record.	Head Teacher
C6	Continued C5 behaviour , possession of a weapon or items that may be used or have been used as weapons, serious violence/assault of another student, possession and/or use of illegal drugs, violence towards a member of staff, criminal offences, any persistent behaviour that repeatedly disrupts the running of the school	Permanent exclusion - This decision will be made by the Head Teacher. This is an official exclusion and will be recorded permanently on the student's record.	Head Teacher

At Dame Alice Owen's, we have very high expectations of behaviour for learning. This list is non-exhaustive and a guide to the level and type of behaviour that will incur consequences. Staff will award consequences at their discretion. It may be that behaviour listed at a certain level above is, in the instance, more/less serious and a higher/lower

Appendix 4

De-escalation Flow Chart Staff Guidance

Class Teacher
Teacher speaks to the student away from peers, in a calm environment, to try and resolve the issue, use restorative strategies, to explain their perspective and to outline the consequences for the student if the behaviour continues.
Teacher sets targets for the student for improved behaviour in the following lessons.
Teacher speaks to the Form Tutor, HoD, Pastoral Director to explain the issues arising to collaborate intervention strategies. Phone call home to parents / carers would also be appropriate.
Teacher to track behaviour and if it improves, ensure feedback and praise is given. Contact with home if appropriate, if there had been previously.
If there is still no improvement in the students behaviour, then a meeting will be held with the HoD, class teacher and the student to discuss the concerns and set targets.



Head of Department / Pastoral Director
Meeting with the class teacher and the student takes place to reiterate expectations for the lessons, ensure the student understands these expectations and gain assurances that the student will adhere to the expectations set out in the behaviour policy. Department report or Pastoral Director report is given to the student and targets are set with the student. The report is reviewed by the Curriculum Leader / Pastoral Director at the end of each week.
If the student responds well to the report then appropriate rewards should be given in the form of a positive phone call home, postcard or house points.
If there is no improvement then a meeting should be arranged with the HoD / Pastoral Director, Parent / Carer and the student. At the meeting it will be explained that SLT will now become involved in monitoring behaviour.



Senior Leadership Team
HoD / Pastoral Director and SLT monitor the report weekly. Class teacher keeps everyone informed.
If behaviour improves this is communicated to home by the HoD or Pastoral Director
If there is no improvement then a Parent meeting will be had with HoD, Pastoral Director and SLT to discuss further sanctions and support where appropriate.