



BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

The Code of Conduct indicates what we as a community (students, teachers and non-teaching staff) expect of each other. This code of conduct is anchored within the motto of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. In particular; respect for self, respect for others, respect for authority, respect for the community and respect for property.

Respect for Self

- All students and students should take responsibility for their own academic performance by completing all homework on time.
- All students and students should respect themselves and the community by adhering to the Uniform Rules at all times. When School Uniform is worn it should be worn properly both inside and outside School (if there is uncertainty about the acceptability of certain items of dress Heads of Year, Assistant Head Pastoral or the Deputy Head should be consulted). The uniform booklet is available on the School website, and must be followed.
- No students should attend lunch or lessons in anything other than school uniform or a full School tracksuit. No skorts or shorts should be worn outside of Games or sports fixtures. When in Games kit around School, the Gilbert kit should be worn, not any other brand of clothing.
- Students and students must bear in mind their 'digital footprint' and protect themselves by not posting anything online which could be harmful, or compromise them in years to come. The e-safety policy is available on request.
- Smoking, the consumption of alcohol and the use of any illegal substances, along with the possession of any associated items, are forbidden at any time when under School discipline and whilst on the way to and from School. Any consumption of illegal substances, both on and off site, which affects behaviour or performance could result in permanent exclusion.

Respect for others

- All members of the Birkenhead School community should demonstrate respect towards other members of the community, treat them with courtesy and be prepared to listen to their views, even views contrary to their own.
- Students should show respect to staff, other adults and 6th Formers by moving out of their way on paths, holding doors open, and offering a greeting to them.
- The School is committed to eliminating bullying in all its forms and expects every member of the community to contribute to this by avoiding bullying behaviour and reporting bullying if it occurs; everyone should be familiar with the School's anti-bullying policy which is displayed prominently

around the School. This includes cyber-bullying and sending of inappropriate images or messages. The wi-fi is monitored for harmful internet activity.

- The School is committed for fostering a safe community for all. As such misogynistic or racist language is forbidden, even as banter. Any incidence of this will be dealt with very strongly and all members of the community are asked to stand against such language at all times, and to report appropriately.
- All members of the community have a duty to act in a manner which does not endanger the safety of themselves or others, this includes leaving School during the School day, or driving carelessly on or near School property.
- The neighbours of the School should be treated respectfully, and consideration of noise when arriving and leaving School is paramount.

Respect for Authority

- Students should respect the authority of Staff and Prefects.
- Disrupting learning is unacceptable; students should listen in silence when a teacher is speaking and all should listen to and respect constructive contributions from others.
- All students have the same right to learn and receive attention.
- Lessons should have an orderly beginning and ending; students in Years 7 – 11 should stand in silence when a member of Staff enters the classroom at the beginning of a lesson.
- Books and all equipment required for the lesson should be on students' desks before the lesson is started. This includes an appropriate device.
- Lessons should start and finish in a tidy classroom; classes are expected to clear any litter and straighten desks and chairs before leaving a classroom.
- Lessons should end on time, thus enabling the next lesson to start promptly; it ought to be possible for the next period to start within five minutes of the bell; where appropriate, homework should have been set before the bell.
- Homework should be set and completed according to the published timetable and available on Firefly.
- Members of Estates and Catering staff should be treated with the same respect as teaching staff.
- We will support the atmosphere of good conduct and respect using our behaviour management systems and will never threaten or use any corporal/physical punishments or sanctions.

Respect for the Community

- Visitors to the School should be treated with particular courtesy. Visitors should have right of way on pathways and into buildings, and should be greeted.
- The use of offensive language is not acceptable, this includes any sexist, racist or gender-offensive language. Any 'banter' which offends, will be treated as bullying.
- All students and students of Birkenhead School will observe the fundamental British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for all.

Respect for Property

- All members of the School community should help to create and maintain a tidy and litter-free environment. All members of the community who see litter, should pick it up, regardless of whether it is theirs or not. Chewing gum is banned.
- Permission must be sought before using any item belonging to the School or to others.
- Graffiti and deliberate damage are not acceptable and should be reported to a member of staff.
- All damage, whether deliberate or accidental, will be responsible for by the perpetrator of the damage.

Respect for Birkenhead School

The School reserves the right to permanently exclude students for breaches of this code of conduct. This includes deliberately endangering the members of the community, or behaviour that brings the name of the School in to disrepute.

Last reviewed by Kirsten Pankhurst on 18th August 2021. Next Review September 2022