

BROCKWOOD PARK SCHOOL

BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENTS POLICY



Last Review Date	June 2016
Policy endorsed by	The Trustees & Co-Principals
Policy is maintained by	Pastoral Coordinators
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Review body	Pastoral Coordinators/ Co-Principals

The intentions of Brockwood Park School can be summarised as follows:

- To educate the whole human being
- To explore what freedom and responsibility are in relationship with others and in society
- To see if it is possibility to be free from self-centred action and inner conflict
- To discover one's own talent and what right livelihood means
- To bring a sense of excellence to the whole of one's life; including academic studies and everyday conduct
- To discover a sense of health with the proper care, use and exercise of the body
- To appreciate the natural world; our place in it and responsibility for it
- To discover through silence a sense of order and clarity

Brockwood Park School welcomes students who are interested in learning about themselves as well as learning skills, subjects, and engaging in various activities. Students should come with an interest and willingness toward self-reflection; to be prepared to ask questions of themselves, their teachers, parents, friends and the world at large into why we think and act the way we do. This active inquiry, in both the student and the educator, is important in awakening an intelligence which will help us meet all of life's challenges; to learn to live together in creative harmony. This requires a spirit of willing co-operation, a sense of responsibility for ourselves, and beyond ourselves to a care for others, the places in which we live, and the planet we all share. In order to do this we need to be adaptable and willing to self-critically examine our attitudes, behaviours, prejudices, beliefs and images.

Agreements with the students

The agreements are shared with the students prior to coming to Brockwood and they are asked to consider and express a concurrence with these agreements carefully before deciding to join the school. One should join only if truly interested in the intentions and way of living expressed in the agreements. The agreements are always on display on the school notice board. The agreements include:

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- **Begin the day at the agreed time**

To begin the day with a sense of order and ease we begin together at an agreed upon time. Everyone should be up in good time before this to start the day with energy and punctuality. The day may begin with a period of silence, followed by breakfast and then Morning Jobs. Everyone is expected to arrive for Morning Jobs ready to contribute fully. We all come together for Morning Assembly, which is a time for attendance call, timely announcements, and short presentations, ending in some minutes of silence. Spending time in stillness and silence allows each one of us to learn about our own inner world, and better understand the movement of our thoughts and feelings. Please pay daily attention to the board at Reception for notices.

- **Assist in caring for the School and for each other**

It is important that we sense Brockwood as our home and that it is a place we are responsible to care for. This ranges from practical matters such as cleaning the house, washing dishes and assisting with duty, through to helping a fellow student with their studies, or taking meals to them when they are ill. Care is generally a natural expression of awareness, affection and sensitivity, and Brockwood encourages us to see beyond our self-centred concerns and behaviour and to nurture this care.

- **Care for your health, cleanliness and appearance**

We want health to be a priority at Brockwood and therefore for us to eat well, get sufficient sleep and take regular exercise. Students will be responsible for laundering their own clothes and keeping their room clean. We encourage you to reflect on your appearance and the choices you make regarding clothing, jewellery and hairstyle; recognising that Brockwood is simultaneously our 'home', a place of work and an international school in which many cultural norms have to mix harmoniously with a sense of order. Our dress code is 'tidy casual' and we ask that clothing, hairstyle (including hair colour), tattoos and body-piercings be muted and discrete and show a sensitivity to living with others and within the context of a school and work environment.

- **Adopt a vegetarian diet during the whole of each term**

The School adopts a vegetarian diet out of a general respect for how we treat living things and in keeping with the original intentions of the founders of the school. For some this may require an adjustment to previous eating habits. The School provides a well-balanced and varied menu to meet the nutritional needs of everyone within a vegetarian diet.

- **Develop a programme of studies that you apply yourself to**

The intentions of the Brockwood curriculum and approach to teaching and learning is for the student to awaken a sense of interest and excellence; to apply this excellence to their academic studies and everyday conduct; to discover what they love to do; to infuse into their studies the question of right livelihood and their place in the world.

At the beginning of the school year you will develop a programme of studies with the guidance and assistance of staff. Your programme may include group classes,

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individualised supervision, one-one academic tutoring and advising, and whatever support you need for your programme of investigations and academic work.

Once the timetable for the whole school is completed and courses begin, you are expected to commit to punctual attendance of classes, meetings and supervisions, presentations of your work, and in general to follow through on your programme, commitments, and to completing the work required in order to get the best out of your educational experience here. Changes to your programme of study must be done via a process of consultation with your teacher(s), academic advisor, and the Curriculum Coordinator.

- **Respect ‘wing times’ and remain in your bedroom at the end of the school day**

Brockwood is not a place where any one of us can just do whatever we want. Certain behaviours are required to keep a sense of order and respect for the fact that we live within the context of a school, which is also within a larger context.

‘Wing times’ are the times when boys are no longer permitted to visit girls’ rooms and vice-versa. Furthermore, at the time given as the ‘end of the day’ all students are expected to return to and to stay within their own wings and rooms until the morning. The reasons for this is to respect the context of living in a school, to have some quiet reflective time at the end of the day, to get adequate sleep, and to establish a healthy rhythm for the study/working week. The School also has a ‘duty of care’ which requires that we know you are safe and secure after nightfall.

- **Refrain from inappropriate sexual behaviour and exclusive relationships**

At Brockwood we question relationships that create a sense of exclusion from the community and disruption to studies, to one’s relationships with fellow students and staff, and to community responsibilities. Learning about sexuality is an important part of our education and self-understanding. Society and media often put a great emphasis on sexual imagery and behaviour in a way that may not be conducive to the well-being of a young person and to a healthy sense of sexuality. We would like you to meet this part of life carefully and intelligently; questioning your own conditioning (ideas, behaviour, images) and considering all the issues carefully; otherwise you may be pressured into imitating others and to engaging in sexual behaviour before you have your own understanding, are ready to decide for yourself and are at too early an age.

While the nature of the school set up does not support exclusive student couples, we do not want to repress or condemn sexuality. We want instead to support students in inquiring into and learning about the nature of healthy relationships. As with all aspects of life, it is important to be willing to question our own drives and behaviour in relationships. This includes seeing what we are doing in the intimacy of a sexual or exclusive relationship. We might be avoiding a sense of loneliness, which can result in never facing it and thus carrying it into the relationships we create throughout our lives.

In addition to learning about yourself, you also must keep in mind that you are living in the context of a boarding school and you have a responsibility to that. The school has a responsibility to the context it is in, including its responsibility to parents and other aspects of the world outside the school.

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- **Not smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or use recreational drugs**

At Brockwood we wish to encourage good health, clear thinking and the understanding of the self and we consider that the use of these substances does not support these aims. We feel that the school makes possible a lifestyle that is in many ways free, open and enjoyable and that for us to preserve this we must insist on these restrictions. Therefore you must be interested in this lifestyle, agree to live this way at the school and agree to support others in living this way. (For more details please refer to the School's Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs Policy)

- **Limit the use of electronic media to agreed places and times**

In terms of what Brockwood is trying to do with regards to an all-round education, we feel that electronic and screen devices that allow for passive entertainment and the press of instantaneous social contact through social media (via laptops, ipods, mobile phones, etc.) can be an obstacle to students developing good relationships, study habits, community responsibility, attentiveness and presence, and a sense of reflective quiet. In order to support full engagement in school life, and to encourage students to make good use of their time and energy, we limit the use of these items to places and times made known to the student at the beginning of the year.

Sanctions

- **Corporal Punishment**

The school rejects the use of corporal punishment or the threat of corporal punishment, as it is illegal under any circumstances and in complete contradiction to the stated intentions of Brockwood Park School.

- **Sanctions currently in use**

Not following the 'Agreements' would result in one, or more, of the following consequences:

1. A conversation with your tutor; a change in courses taken; a change in bedroom; restricted access to certain rooms (such as the Computer Rooms) or to certain areas (such as the Wings); a requirement to contribute more to school life through a project or activity; seeing a counsellor
2. Suspension from the School for a period of time during which student is encouraged to reflect on what has happened, to discuss this with their parents/ guardian, and to write to the School, suspension is usually for one week of term-time. The Pastoral Coordinator and the Co-Principals may at times recommend an extended period of suspension
3. Expulsion or exclusion from the School

Suspension or expulsion is likely if:

- Student brings in, or uses, alcohol and illegal drugs at Brockwood
- Student is unable to live by the School Agreements and does not respond to the step 1 mentioned above

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- Student behaviour is such that staff feel they can no longer trust the student in the School, or take responsibility for his/her being here. This usually occurs after a serious incident, a constellation of ongoing incidents, if the student is believed to be a risk to others or himself/herself, or because of a serious breach of English law.

- **Communication with Parents**

Parents are informed of the sanction by the student's tutor. Suspensions (2 above) and Expulsion (3 above) are communicated to the parents immediately.

- **Recording Sanctions**

Sanctions are recorded by the Pastoral Co-Ordinators and kept both in the student file and in the Sanctions List available on the school server

Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Policy

This policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs and applies to all the students. Safety and wellbeing of students therefore underpin both the school's drugs education and its response to any incident.

Students are not permitted to be in the possession of or to use alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other substances used for a drug-like effect, matches, vaporizers, lighters, or volatile substances either within the school buildings, travelling to and from school or on school trips. Any found will be confiscated, parents will be informed, and sanctions will be instituted.

- **Education**

Different aspects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco education are encompassed within the ethos of the school and are delivered through: Human Development lessons, Assembly times, and tutorial periods with the aim of:

- Increasing the knowledge and understanding of drugs, their uses and dangers, the law and relevant local and national agencies.
- Exploring a range of views, clarify attitudes and challenging stereotypes, understanding the impulse to use substances.
- Developing a range of skills to enable young people to make their own informed decisions about drugs.

- **Tobacco**

Smoking is not allowed in the school buildings and grounds. The no smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example, parents, suppliers, and contractors. For those pupils caught, the school will take necessary disciplinary steps.

- **Alcohol**

Alcohol is not permitted on the school site. For those pupils found with it the school will take necessary disciplinary steps

- **Drugs**

If any pupil is found in possession of drugs, they will be confiscated and disposed of by the Co-Principals.

- Suspicions of misuse may arise from the following indications: Involvement in a drugs incident; physical signs; other signs or evidence, such as finding certain items

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of equipment associated with drug use, information received and other specific circumstances giving rise to suspicion, such as significant erratic behaviour.

- The Pastoral Co-Ordinator and/or the Co-Principals will be responsible for conducting an investigation. This investigation and any accompanying searches of rooms and personal belongings will be conducted in keeping with the school policy on investigation and searches, parents will be kept informed as far as possible. This is outlined in the school's investigation protocol.
- If the grounds for suspicion are deemed to be sufficient, a student may be required to take a urine test or other suitable test straight away. Consent to testing is explicit in the standard terms and conditions. It is a condition of acceptance of any new student that these conditions are agreed. All returning students implicitly accept this condition with their return to school in September 2015. Refusal to take a test therefore constitutes a refusal to obey the discipline of the school. An individualised testing regime may involve the use of a range of suitable tests.
- If a student has come forward voluntarily to a member of staff with a drug problem – or help has been sought on his or her behalf by a parent - that student will be put on an individualised drug testing regime, supported by additional pastoral care and monitoring. If an investigation is already underway, a student's coming forward or being put forward in this manner would be negated. A condition of remaining at the school is that that student must agree to be tested at times of the school's choosing throughout the rest of their Brockwood career. Any positive test will cause that student to leave the school.
- As a result of an ordinary investigation, based on the grounds cited above will lead to that student leaving the school, except where there are exceptional, mitigating circumstances.
- Any student found to be supplying, or in possession of drugs with the intent to supply, will be expelled.
- Any student caught in possession of, or using, drugs should expect to lose their place at the school as a result.