

BROCKWOOD PARK SCHOOL
BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENTS POLICY



Last Review Date	August 2019
Policy endorsed by	The Trustees & Principal
Policy is maintained by	Pastoral Coordinators
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Next review date	August 2020
Review body	Pastoral Coordinators/ Principal

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 the movement of the self and if it is possible to be free from self-centred action and inner conflict
- To discover one's own interests and talents and what place they have in right livelihood
- 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 discover a way of living in which we can learn to live together in creative harmony. This requires a spirit of learning and 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 interested in the self-critical examine of our attitudes, behaviours, prejudices, beliefs and images.

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Agreements with the students

The agreements are shared with the students prior to coming to Brockwood and they are asked to consider them carefully, gain their own clarity, and express a concurrence with these agreements 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:

- **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. Everyone is encouraged to begin the day with others in a period of silence, followed by breakfast and then Morning Jobs. Everyone is expected to arrive for Morning Jobs ready to contribute fully. Spending time in stillness and silence allows each one of us to observe and 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 and announcements.

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

It is important that we sense Brockwood as our home and that we see 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 taking an interest in and helping fellow students with their studies and teachers in the classes, and taking meals to others 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 be aware of habits we have developed that are unhealthy, 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 to understand the origin of 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), 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 living things and how we treat them, the impact of our diet on the planet, 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**

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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 and study, individualised supervision and projects, 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 and study times begin, you are expected to commit to punctual attendance of classes, meetings, supervisions, study times, 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**

How we end the day is important at Brockwood. It is a time to bring the busy-ness of the day to an end so one can move calmly into a good night’s sleep. Students need to support each other in this as it is all too easy to continue the impulse to engage with one another and in stimulating activities. 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 where you are and that you are safe and secure after nightfall and you can show a mature sense of understanding and care by complying with this.

- **Refrain from relationships that are exclusive and isolate you from others and from sexual behaviour that is inappropriate in a school context**

At Brockwood we question relationships that create a sense of exclusion from the community, over dependence on another and disruption to studies, one’s relationships with fellow students and staff, and to community responsibilities. Learning about sexuality is an important part of life and your 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 merely imitate others and engage in sexual behaviour at too early an age and without your own understanding of sexuality and relationships that involve it.

While the nature of the school set up does not support exclusive student couples and sexual relationships, we do not want to repress or condemn sexuality. We want instead

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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.

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. Your understanding and mature response to the school's need to restrict sexual activity is needed.

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

Much of the world is engaged in entertainment through the use of substances such as tobacco, drugs and alcohol. However, Brockwood is not the place for this. As a student you need to take this seriously and to come to your own understanding of this and to have a real interest in a way of life that does not include them. Otherwise you will come to Brockwood still expecting to engage in the use of substances and this severely affects not only your experience here but the whole school. 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 want everyone to question and discover the right place of electronic and screen devices in our lives and at Brockwood. It is all too easy for these to take over and to inhibit other important ways of using our time and energy. Passive entertainment and the press of instantaneous social contact through social media (via laptops, iPods, mobile phones, etc.) can be an obstacle to developing interests and talents, 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 that are 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:

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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 Coordinators and the Principal 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
- 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 Coordinators 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**

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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 Principal.

- 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 of equipment associated with drug use, information received and other specific circumstances giving rise to suspicion, such as significant erratic behaviour.
- The Pastoral Coordinators and/or the Principal 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 2019. 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.

- **Anti-Bullying and Peer-on-Peer abuse**

The Responsibilities of Students and Children

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- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying or abuse, including by a peer, even at the risk of incurring unpopularity.
- Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied or abuse, including by a peer, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying or abuse, including by a peer, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances.
- ***Anyone who becomes the target of bullies*** should not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their suffering and that of other potential targets. Students are encouraged to speak of any concerns with their tutor, academic adviser, independent listener or any other member of staff who they wish to choose.