



10 September 2020

Re: Updated Behaviour Policy

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to be joining the staff team as Associate Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for pastoral care at Hexham Middle School this year and have already been made so welcome by both staff and pupils. I have also been extremely impressed by the excellent standards of behaviour and presentation among the pupils.

As Mr Watters mentioned in his letter last week, we are extremely excited to be updating our behaviour policy in school this year. I am writing to offer you some further detail about the policy, which has already been shared with all pupils in both assemblies and form time.

Ethos

The updated behaviour policy has been drafted by me, in conjunction with the wider pastoral team in order to encompass the following ethos:

‘To enable staff to consistently support pupils to behave in the best way that they can in order to achieve their potential’

We recognise that at HMS the behaviour of most pupils is outstanding and we wanted to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to acknowledge and reward this. Changes made to the existing policy include: a greater emphasis on recognition of positive behaviours; electronic monitoring of behaviour; wider use of rewards for good behaviour.

Classcharts

This year we have invested in some fantastic new monitoring software called Classcharts. This system runs across the whole school and all staff are accessing and using it to monitor pupil behaviour. All pupils have an overall behaviour score, starting the year at 0, which fluctuates each time a behaviour point is awarded as per the system outlined below.

Classcharts also has the facility for a parental feed, whereby parents/carers will have access to their child’s behaviour record. We are hopeful that this will foster greater communication between school and home and enable us to work together to support pupils. Pastoral Leaders will be making use of the software to identify and tailor support and intervention for students in school.

The software operates on a free Apple or Android app which needs to be downloaded, as well as via any web browser. All parents/carers will be issued with a log-in for Classcharts within the next couple of weeks. In order for these to be issued please ensure that we have accurate email contacts for you

on file. Following the issue of parent log-ins I will write again with more detailed instructions on how to access and use the software.

The S & P System

The S (Stage) System, with which many of you will be familiar, remains part of our behaviour policy. Pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable may be given a Stage ranging from an S1 – S4, depending on the severity of the incident. Full details of the school's behaviour policy can be found on the website [here](#) including examples of behaviours which may incur sanctions.

This year, we are introducing a concurrent P (Positive) System which recognises good behaviour. Pupils whose behaviour is excellent may be awarded a Positive ranging from a P1 – P4, depending on the nature of the behaviour. Pupils may also be awarded points for excellent homework, presentation or handwriting as well as general school contribution.

Rewards and Sanctions

With the introduction of the behaviour point system we are also very excited to introduce the Classcharts Rewards Store. This is part of the software which allows pupils to use their positive behaviour points to 'purchase' rewards and prizes. Prizes currently include; queue jump passes, badges, stationary and treat afternoons. We hope that this feature will encourage students to behave positively in and around school by offering them greater recognition and reward.

The detention system will remain in place for sanctioning any Stage 3s & 4s. If a pupil receives a Stage 3 they will be issued with a break time detention for the following day, failure to attend this detention will result in a second break time detention. Failure to attend the second detention without legitimate reason will result in an after school detention with a member of pastoral staff on the next Tuesday. Failure to attend the Tuesday detention will result in an after school detention with senior staff on the following Friday. If your child receives an after school detention you will be contacted by telephone by a member of staff to confirm arrangements.

This year

The updated behaviour policy and Classcharts software provides us with an exciting opportunity to develop pupils further here at HMS. We hope to create a culture of positive recognition, clear and consistent communication as well as fostering the best support we can for all pupils. The policy has been explained to pupils this week and has received a very positive reception – we hope that this will be the case for parents and carers too.

Should you have any questions regarding behaviour, Classcharts or pastoral care at Hexham Middle School, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Curry
Associate Assistant Headteacher