

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embark on our second (and longest) half term of the academic year, I'm writing to you to let you know that in special assemblies last week we reminded your child of our high expectations around pupil behaviour and some improvements we are making to our behaviour system to make it simpler and clearer for pupils and staff.

We feel this reminder is necessary at this time of year as experience tells us that the latter half of the Autumn Term in particular can be a challenge for some pupils in terms of consistently making good choices – and we want to avoid this for as many pupils as we possibly can so they have a positive and settled half term.

All of us at St Antony's continue to prioritise ensuring our school is a safe, calm, orderly environment where learning and progress is at the heart of what we are about. Pupils in their assemblies were reminded that whilst there is much to be grateful for in terms of positive pupil behaviour, there are certain negative behaviours that remain absolutely unacceptable and run completely contrary to our values. The main negative behaviours we discussed with them that I'd like to draw your attention to include:

- **Defiance and/or disrespect to any adult from a child** (e.g. refusing to go to a lesson or refusing to stop to speak to an adult). Respect is the golden rule of our school and adult authority is paramount and must remain so for the safety of pupils and the smooth running of the school. Essentially, children must follow instructions from any adult. The vast majority of pupils do this every single day; however, this is the most common way some pupils get in to trouble in our school. I want to reassure you that we do not wish to have conflict with pupils and nor do we seek it out, but defiance in relation to simple instructions is something we will never ignore or let slide. For pupils who repeatedly display defiance to adults at school, in spite of our efforts to help them make good choices, the sanctions issued will be strong and increase in severity – and this includes being suspended from school for short periods of time if necessary.
- **Verbal abuse of any adult from a child.** None of the adults come to work to be swore at or verbally abused. Thankfully, this does not happen often, but when it does, it will result in a strong sanction that is likely to be a suspension from school for a short period as this is something that is completely unacceptable.
- **Children being physically aggressive towards each other.** Thankfully rare, but it occasionally does happen and it will be treated very seriously with strong sanctions for perpetrators.
- **Pupils arriving late to lessons.** This is a problem for a small minority of our pupils. It is important that you are aware that we have now moved to same-day, 30-minute detentions after school for

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- pupils who are late to any lesson on that day without a valid reason in order to help those pupils to positively change their behaviour and reduce interruptions to learning that poor punctuality can cause. To ensure all pupils are supported to arrive on time to their lesson, a second bell will now sound 4 minutes into the lesson notifying all staff and pupils that any arrivals after this time will be classed as late.
- **Pupils being disruptive in lessons and interrupting the learning of other pupils.** If this occurs, staff have been instructed to not tolerate any pupil choices in the classroom that compromises learning. If a pupil has to be removed from a lesson because they are disruptive, they will, after receiving two formal warnings (and several reminders), be issued with a C3 detention that will now take place on the same day immediately after school (this includes all lesson removals up to a 2.30pm cut off – any that occur after this time will take place the following day). Parents and carers will be notified via text message of this and staff will hold a short restorative conversation with the pupil prior to the commencement of their next lesson. Sanctions will then increase in severity should this continue to be a problem in future lessons.

A failure to attend any after school detention without a valid reason will result in a 60-minute detention the following day. A refusal to attend this 'second-chance' detention will lead to time in our isolation room, with the 60-minute after school detention then added that same day.

We hope this short update provides you with the clarity and certainty about our recent messaging to your child so we can continue to work together, in partnership, to ensure all pupils behave well, meaning pupils can get on with learning and adults can get on with teaching and supporting our young people to be on track to become the best versions of themselves.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mr. A Campbell

Headteacher

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