

STAR ACADEMY SANDYFORD

Newsletter

STAR
ACADEMY • SANDYFORD

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DIARY DATES

Academy Reopens Tuesday 5th Sept

Cook & Eat Sessions start Tues 12th Sept 9.15-11.15am

Active Families sessions start Tues 12th Sept 1-3pm

FS1 & 2 Parent Inspire Afternoon 28th Sept 2-3pm

Parent Conferences 4th & 5th Oct

Spooky Disco 19th Oct

Half Term

23rd - 27th October

IN THIS ISSUE

- Parent Code of Conduct
- Social Media Policy
- Cook & Eat and Active Families
- Attendance

Welcome Back.

I am delighted to welcome you all back to the Academy and the start of a new term. If you are a new parent can I give you a huge welcome to the STAR family and thank you for choosing our Academy to educate your child. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and made some wonderful memories together.

As we journey into a new academic year, I would like to either welcome you or thank you for the support that you give both your child and the academy team. This is a journey for us all and we all need to work together so that we achieve the very best for each one of our star pupils. Here's to 2017/18

Miss Broomhall

PE DAYS

FS1	Tuesday & Thursday
FS2	Monday & Thursday
Y1	Monday & Thursday
Y2	Tuesday & Thursday
Y3	Monday & Wednesday
Y4	Wednesday & Friday
Y5	Wednesday & Friday
Y6	Wednesday & Friday



Cook & Eat and Active Families Sessions

Before the summer break, I gave out information about some workshops that will be starting next Tuesday 12th September for parents. The Cook and Eat sessions are over subscribed and I will be sending out reminders to those who have signed up. If you are no longer interested or available please say as we can only have 10 participants. These will be run in the well-being centre starting at 9.15am until 11.15am.

We still have 6 places available for the active families sessions. If you are interested please complete the form and return asap.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Please make sure
we have up to date
telephone numbers

ATTENDANCE

Attendance of pupils last year was a real issue and saw us fall below the national expectations. We have always tried to work with families to achieve the best attendance for all pupils. I am increasingly concerned about the amount of time some children are having away from the academy and will be taking stronger action this academic year. This will be taken up with the Local Governing Body as to routes forward to eradicate some of the issues that are impacting on the education of children.

There has been a significant rise in holidays taken during term time and absence relating to illness that is not sufficient to warrant time away from school. I will keep you informed on the decisions that are made following the next governors' meeting this term.

Parent Code of Conduct & Social Media Policies

I have attached two policies to this newsletter that are two areas that we make our parents aware of.

The **Code of Conduct** relates to how we at the Academy expect our parents and other adults to conduct themselves both in and around the academy. It also states the strategies that will be enforced if these are not followed.

The **Social Media Policy** relates to the rules and guidance around the Academy and social media.

Thank you for your co-operation around these areas of academy life.

Comment

Thank you to all the parents who sent us lots of lovely Thank-You cards and gifts at the end of term. Your kind words of appreciation are so fondly received.

Thank you from TEAM STAR



Star Academy Sandyford **Parents'/Carers' Code of Conduct**

Academy Vision

At Star Academy Sandyford we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our Academy is an orderly and safe place where relationships between staff, parents and visitors demonstrate mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for our pupils' welfare and educational success. As part of that partnership our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship in order to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our Academy.

The purpose of this notice is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our Academy about their expected conduct both in and around the vicinity of the Academy premises. This is so that we can continue to enable children to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-Academy Agreements, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the Academy community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the Academy's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the Academy to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

In order to support a peaceful and safe Academy environment we cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office or any other area of the Academy grounds.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to harm a member of the Academy staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying Academy property.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications.
- Defamation of the Academy or staff character on Facebook or other social networking sites.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on the Academy premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards your own child/ren.

- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs.
- Cycling on the Academy premises.
- Dogs/any animal being brought on to Academy premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on, or in the direct vicinity of premises that has a direct impact on any member of the Academy, the Academy will implement the following actions.

- **Verbal Warning/Mediation Meeting**
A parent who displays any of the behaviour as described above will be asked politely to desist and offered the opportunity to discuss the matter in person.
- **A Formal Written Warning**
A formal written letter will be sent to the parent where they continue to act unacceptably. This is signed by the Academy Principal and circulated to relevant internal parties to ensure that an informed approach can be adopted. This letter will also be circulated to the Chair of the Local Governing Body. A copy will be kept on file of any student at the Academy for a period of twelve months.
- **A Formal Banning**
A formal ban will be implemented if after a formal written warning behaviours have continued or if extreme behaviours have occurred that the Principal, Chair of the Local Governing Body and in certain cases legal representatives or the Police feel warrant exclusion from the Academy premises. The length of the ban will be for a set period of time. The aim should always be to restore "normal" relations as soon as reasonably practicable.
- **Prosecution under Section 547, Education Act 1996**
After receiving a formal ban it will then be an offence for a trespasser on the Academy premises to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. This allows for the removal and prosecution of any person believed to have committed the offence. The penalty for a person convicted of the offence is a fine of up to £500.
- **Further Legal Sanctions**
If a parent breaches the expected standard of behaviour as set out in this code of conduct despite formal written warnings, then the Academy will consider further legal guidance in the form of:-
 - An injunction under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997
 - An Anti-Social Behaviour Order

At all times, the common purpose in this Academy remains clear: to achieve zero tolerance of violence, threatening behaviour or abuse and to ensure all members of the Academy community and all visitors can be confident that they are operating within a safe environment.

N. Broomhall September 2017

STAR ACADEMY SANDYFORD MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY PROCEDURES



Social media and social networking sites play an important role in the lives of many youngsters. We recognise that sites bring risks, but equally there are many benefits. This document gives clarity to the way in which social media are to be used by the academy community at Star Academy Sandyford.

There are 4 principal areas:-

- 1 The use of social networking sites by pupils within school.
- 2 Comments posted by parents/carers.
- 4 Dealing with incidents of online bullying.

A The use of social networking sites by pupils within the academy

The Academy's responsible use of the internet/social networking policy makes it clear to pupils what use of social media is allowed. This states that 'Social network sites should never be accessed/used within the Academy. Members of staff **will not** be friends with any pupil or parent within the academy community via social media sites.

B Comments posted by parents/carers

Parents and carers will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking. Methods of academy communication include the prospectus, the website, twitter, journals, newsletters, letters and verbal discussion. Parents have signed both a home academy agreement and a responsible use of the internet form in their child's home academy journal.

- 1 Parents are not expected to post pictures of pupils other than their own children on social networking sites.
- 2 Parents should make complaints through official school channels rather than posting them on social networking sites.
- 3 Parents should not post malicious or fictitious comments on social networking sites about any member of the school community.
- 4 Parents should not post abusive comments that will damage the reputation of the school.

D Dealing with incidents of online bullying

The academy e-safety and/or anti-bullying policy makes sanctions regarding bullying using new technologies very clear. The Department for Education's document 'Behaviour and Discipline in Schools' (page 5) indicates that the academy can take action against incidents

that happen outside school if it:

- 1 Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy or;
- 2 Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or;
- 3 Could adversely affect the reputation of the academy.

Use of social networking sites to harass, bully or intimidate would be covered by this irrespective of when/where the post was made.

E Dealing with abusive statements made by parents online

The academy will not tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting behaviours including the following:-

- 1 Abusive or threatening emails or texts, voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
- 2 Defamation of the academy or staff character on Facebook or other social networking sites.

If comments are made that are abusive and damage the reputation of the academy then the the academy will contact the social networking site to have these removed. If these comments are particularly abusive then the police will be informed.

This complies with the UK statute laws related to the use of IT which could apply in this situation. These are:-

- 1 The Protection from Harrassment Act 1997: This states that it is unlawful to cause harassment, alarm or distress by 'a course of conduct'.
- 2 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994: This defines a criminal offence of intentional harassment, which covers all forms, including sexual harassment.
- 3 The Malicious Communications Act 1998: this states that it is an offence to send an indecent, offensive or threatening letter, electronic communication or other article to another person (originally passed 1988; second impression 1998).
- 4 The Communications Act 2003: Under this Act a person is guilty of an offence if he/she sends by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

Additionally, if the comments are based on sexual, racial or religious grounds, prosecution could be sought through anti-discriminatory law.

N.Broomhall September 2017