



Tomlinscote School

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

At the Summer term parental forum and in the July end of term letter, I mentioned that we were going to change aspects of our behaviour policy at Tomlinscote. I would like to highlight what these changes are to you. Your child was informed about them yesterday and Mr Taylor will also emphasise the changes at each forthcoming Parent Information Evening.

The rationale for the changes is that we wanted to improve our behaviour systems within the school, be clearer about our expectations and become more consistent with our approaches within and outside the classroom. The bottom line is that our behaviour within the school is very good, but there are aspects that can be improved because our behaviour policy has not been looked at for quite a few years. For the majority of students, it will have no impact upon them at all because they do the right thing all day every day!

Rewards

We have encouraged our staff to “catch students being good” and reward with praise and House points wherever possible. I anticipate that there will be more House points awarded than ever before. As part of a project that encourages good manners, our Year 7 students are being issued with tokens whenever they demonstrate great manners, and these will go into a box and earn House points. I have already handed out quite a few!

Detentions

We have abandoned different length detentions, and they have been replaced with a 45-minute detention now. A detention will be set for the following day only and parents will be informed via EduLink. If there are two detentions in a day or if a detention is missed, then the students will be placed in our internal suspension room and parents will again be informed.

This is simply a tightening up of our processes to prevent chasing students who miss detentions for whatever reason and picking up students who repeatedly don't meet our expectations. So that you are aware, we are having a particular push on punctuality to lessons, having the right equipment for the lesson and having a good uniform – this includes ensuring that kilts are not rolled up high on the leg.

However, we are no longer going to be giving detentions for something that is an accident – like forgetting an exercise book. We felt that was not fair to a student and in this instance, we will contact home to work together to ensure support is given at home to improve organisation. Detentions are just for students who make a deliberate choice to not meet our expectations and hopefully very few will need to be set.

Managing low level disruption in the classroom

We felt that there were inconsistencies and consequently some students were not clear in terms of expectations between different classrooms and teachers. We have introduced a new system called the 4R's:

- **Remind** - Students will be given a reminder about expectations within their lesson
- **Reset** – If a type of behaviour persists (e.g. talking too much) then the student will be given a reset opportunity to help them stay in the classroom. It will be a supportive measure to help the student.
- **Remove** – Should the behaviour continue then the student will be removed to an alternative classroom. Other students do not want to be persistently disturbed and have their learning affected.
- **Restore** – The teacher and student will have a restorative conversation so that the student can have a fresh start next lesson and support them.

The same “language” relating to behaviour will be used right across the school for consistency and I think that students will benefit from this clarity.

In the rare circumstance that a student displays extremely poor behaviour then they may be sent straight to our internal suspension room and they will be given 5 minutes to get to that room. If that does not occur, then we may contact the parent to collect their child from school.

Movement around the school during lessons

We will now issue a student a permission slip if they need to move around the school during a lesson. They can now hand that to a member of staff when they are asked why they are out of a lesson.

As mentioned, Mr Taylor will highlight these changes at the Information Evenings so that everyone is informed. I feel that students will benefit from a clearer behaviour management system, that is fairer to all students and tightens up our systems. We will be completing some student voice panels in the next few weeks to assess the impact and also be speaking to the student leadership team to hear their views.

I have spent the last couple of periods walking into classrooms and the behaviour has been excellent with a lovely learning buzz in the classrooms. This slight change in strategy will compliment what we already have at Tomlinscote.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Major
Principal