

# Handsworth Grange Community Sports College

## Detention Policy



**Current Policy as of:** September 2018

**LT Responsibility:** Sally Ruczenczyn

**Governor Committee:** Teaching, Learning and Pupil Outcomes

## **1) INTRODUCTION:**

*The Minerva Learning Trust (MLT) asks all partner schools to adopt and use this policy unless a partner school and the Minerva Learning Trust have discussed and agreed alternative procedures that they both agree would better suit the partner school's particular circumstances.*

*Any reference in this policy to the Governing Body or the school relates to the independent governing bodies and schools of all Minerva Learning Trust partners. Partner schools and their respective Governing Bodies have full delegated powers from the Trust and have responsibility for the operational implementation of the policies and their associated procedures. They are encouraged to seek advice and support from Minerva Learning Trust on matters of policy and procedure in circumstances where decisions may potentially impact on the Trust as a whole, e.g. dismissing staff or making staff redundant. In such circumstances, at least one member of the relevant panel should be a member of the Trust.*

At HGCSC we expect every pupil to meet the required high standards of the school. Pupils and teachers have the right to work in an orderly atmosphere where learning and teaching can progress uninterrupted. Parents/carers are expected to support the school in achieving these high standards. Pupils will face consequences should they fail to meet HGCSC standards and expectations. A detention is one of the sanctions that may be used e.g. for both class and homework not being completed or adequately attempted; lateness without good reason; breaching the school's behaviour policy or persistent lack of co-operation etc.

The 1997 Education Act gives schools the legal right to detain pupils after the end of a school session on 'disciplinary' grounds.

## **2) LINKS:**

This policy is linked to other key policies and procedures such as the Behaviour for Learning policy, Every Child Matters, department/team behaviour policies and procedures.

## **3) AIMS and OBJECTIVES**

- a)** That all sanctions, including detentions, are applied fairly and consistently taking into account a pupil's age, gender, ethnicity, culture, beliefs, socio-economic background as well as their physical, emotional and psychological state. They should also conform with school and team/department policy.
- b)** That wherever possible detentions are targeted at specific pupils i.e. whole class detentions must be avoided.

**c)** The time a pupil spends in a detention should be used constructively and to best effect e.g. appropriate work should be provided for pupils to undertake during the detention.

**d)** In common with all other sanctions detentions should be:

- Graduated and proportionate to the offence.
- Intended to modify the behaviour of the relevant pupil.
- Applied professionally and objectively.

**e)** For teams and departments to use this policy to modify or draw up their own procedures for setting and managing detentions.

#### **4) Setting detentions**

Staff should take account of:

**a)** The child's age.

**b)** Any special educational needs.

**c)** Any religious requirements.

**d)** The impact on the parent/carer e.g. if the parent/carer is reliant on the child picking up/looking after a younger sibling; if the parent has to pick up the child at a particular time.

**e)** Whether there may be any risk of the child travelling home safely e.g. bus times, the time of year and weather conditions.

**f)** Other commitments the child may have e.g. medical, school teams etc.

**g)** Appropriate staff are informed e.g. Tutor, Subject/Team Leader etc.

**h)** Bearing in mind the above, selecting the most appropriate time for holding the detention:

- After school, but for no more than an hour.
- During lunchtime, but ensuring that pupils are able to get something to eat, drink or use the toilet.
- During Break, but ensuring pupils are able to use the toilet or get a drink if required.

**i)** The time a pupil spends in detention should be used constructively and to best effect. Various types of work or activity could be set during a detention which may be related to the nature of the offence e.g. completing classwork or homework, writing an apology, litter picking, removing graffiti. However, the work should not be demeaning or over-demanding for the pupil concerned and it must conform to health and safety guidance.

## **5) Legal requirements:**

- a)** Legally schools are not obliged to notify parents of a detention or provide a reason. However, Handsworth Grange has agreed to continue to give at least 24 hours' notice of an after-school detention to the parent. This is to allow time for the parent/carer to raise any issues or make appropriate arrangements where possible. The reason(s) for issuing the detention will also be provided e.g. by letter, email, via the Pupil Planner, by phone. The parent/carer should be informed:
- That their child has been given a detention (day, date, time);
  - Why the detention was given;
  - When, where and for how long the child will be detained.
- b)** If the parent/carer agrees, an after-school detention may be set on the same day.
- c)** A staff detention '*within*' the school day may be given without notice. Pupils may be detained for up to 30 minutes during lunchtime but must be given sufficient time to eat lunch, use the toilet etc. A '*without notice*' staff detention could also be used to detain the pupil *for up to 15 minutes at the end of the school day*. The 15 minutes should include a reasonable period of time for getting to the appropriate classroom (*consideration must be given to the pupil travel arrangements or to other responsibilities they may have such as picking up a younger sibling to take home or attending a medical appointment*).
- d)** Staff should give careful consideration to any potential issues of supervision where a single child is detained and should seek and act on advice or guidance e.g. ensuring other staff know the location of the detention and/or are nearby and/or are within earshot or sight etc.

## **6) Failure to attend detention/Persistent failure to meet expectations and standards:**

- a)** Everything possible should be done to ensure a pupil attends a detention set by a member of staff. This may involve asking the Tutor or another member of staff to remind the pupil. It may mean that another available member of staff picks up the child to take to their detention. This reinforces the status of the colleague setting the detention and the concept of teamwork.
- b)** If a pupil fails to attend a detention, or if this sanction or others used by person/team/department, has failed to have the intended positive effect, then the child may be given a further but longer detention.
- c)** If the child still fails to meet standards and expectations then he/she may be given a whole school detention. It is the responsibility of the person; team or department where the issue has arisen to ensure there is suitable work for the child to be getting on with.

**d)** Managing the behaviour of pupils involves ALL colleagues to a greater or lesser extent. It is important that colleagues seek advice and support. It is important that, without prejudice, they raise concerns and are open about difficulties with individuals or groups. However, it is also vital that colleagues/teams/departments work through their own behaviour management procedures first and try to make them work. Passing on the responsibility for managing pupil behaviour at too early a stage can have negative and damaging consequences such as:

- Some key staff are forced to occupy a purely punitive role.
- It may indicate, or lead to, colleagues/teams abdicating their proper professional responsibility for maintaining order and discipline in the classroom.
- Punishment is delayed and it therefore loses some of its effectiveness.
- It can lead to increased disorder and disruption in the School.



**Approved by**

**Governor:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Signature:** .....