



**Malbank School & Sixth Form College**  
**Behaviour and Attendance Handbook 2023-2024**

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# Behaviour and Attendance Handbook 2023-24

## 1. Aims

**Malbank School** aims to provide a safe and structured environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure adherence to an agreed set of principles of behaviour.
- Support effective teaching and learning.
- Contribute to a culture of mutual polite, courteous respect.
- Gain the support of parents, students and all members of staff.
- Help pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Help pupils to understand the consequences of both good and poor behaviour and be accountable for the choices they make.

## 2. Principles

At **Malbank School** we believe that everyone has the right to enjoy school life in a safe, friendly environment. We encourage respect for others and their property, and we strive to ensure that everyone is valued equally and treated with respect, regardless of aptitude, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender, disability or social status. **Malbank school** understands that it has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils.

**Our shared expectations** are that we will have a school where...

- **Learning and teaching experiences are interactive, engaging and varied, both inside and outside of the classroom.**
- **Relationships are based on mutual respect, harmony and shared values.**
- **The learning environment is safe, and all resources are used to their fullest extent to promote achievement for life.**
- **Everybody can achieve their potential and feels valued for what they are good at.**
- **Every voice is heard and every individual matters.**

Students are required to follow the Code of Conduct and be good ambassadors for the school at all times. They are expected to behave responsibly on their journey to and from school and on school trips. This is outlined in the Bus Code of Conduct (Appendix 1).

Parents are asked to actively support all school policies and encourage their sons/daughters to contribute positively to the learning environment.

**The Code of Conduct states** as a student of **Malbank School** you are expected to:

Adhere to the **Malbank Way**:

- Be polite and show respect at all times,
- Make the 60 matter in all lessons,
- Show pride in our standards at all times.

Also to:

- Arrive to all lessons **on time**, with the **correct equipment**, wearing the **correct uniform** as indicated in the uniform guide and student planner
- **Be respectful of others** opinions, beliefs, property and the contributions of others
- **Be polite and courteous and show respect** at all times
- Ensure that they do not use **a mobile phone** or device with access to the internet whilst on the school site.
- Move around the school in a **quiet and orderly** manner, **keep to the left** in corridors and stairways
- **Wait outside classrooms** until instructed to enter by a member of staff
- **Not to eat in classrooms**, unless you have the permission from a member of staff.
- Take pride in yourself and your environment
- **Be responsible** for your possessions at all times
- Students are expected to be in the designated areas at break and lunch times.
- **Stay on site** unless you have obtained an 'out of school pass' eg for a medical appointment
- **Put litter in the bins** provided and **recycle** wherever possible

**As a school we will not tolerate:**

- **Physical or verbal abuse of another member of the school community**
- **Child on child abuse**
- **The use of mobile phones / electronic devices whilst on the school site in accordance with the school's mobile phone policy.**
- **Students bringing to school chewing gum, cigarettes, e-cigarettes (including e-liquids) alcohol, illegal substances or fizzy drinks/energy drinks or any form of weapon.**
- **Interference with other people's property**
- **Vandalism, graffiti or theft**
- **The selling of items for profit on the school premises without the permission of a member of the Senior Leadership Team**

All members of staff must insist upon high standards of behaviour, discipline and uniform from all students and must follow and consistently apply the Behaviour for Learning (BfL) policy, as laid out in the BfL Handbook.

The criteria for our Lesson Monitor systems is displayed in all classrooms, in student planners and in the BfL handbook.

### **3. Rewards and Sanctions**

The school uses 'Lesson Monitor' to grade individual's behaviour in lessons as;

1=Outstanding

2=Good

3=Unsatisfactory

4=Unacceptable

5=left lesson to use the toilet

6=Inadequate work completed

It is assumed that student's behaviour in lessons is good, as all pupils are initially marked with a grade 2.

The grades must be monitored and reviewed on a daily and weekly basis so that pupils can be rewarded or sanctioned as appropriate.

### **4. Culture of Praise:**

As a school we believe that Quality First Teaching creates a positive atmosphere where children feel valued and successful, and effort is celebrated.

Praise should be personal, specific, credible and differentiated, fair and consistent.

We consider it is important not just to praise and reward good work and behaviour but also to recognise positive contributions to school life. Staff should make at least 2 contacts a week home to praise pupils. The Deputy Head Teacher is responsible for overseeing the school's culture of praise.

The following praise mechanisms are used:

- Awarding Lesson Monitor grade 1 and 2
- Entry into the weekly 'golden ticket' draw.
- House stars inter-house competitions
- Postcards of praise
- Certificates
- Attendance certificates
- Prizes and trophies
- Privileges, for example, Year 11 Prom attendance and rewards events and trips.
- Praise assemblies which reflect achievements such as Student of the Week for citizenship, successes in competitions, excellent attendance and A2L achievements
- Celebration of Achievement Days

Additional rewards are linked to the 'Lesson Monitor' system. The House system further raise the profile of praise and reward through inter House competition.

## 5. Sanctions

At **Malbank** when a pupil's behaviour is giving cause for concern staff must follow the procedures laid out in the BfL handbook, which illustrates the 'Lesson Monitor' guidelines.

Staff must accept responsibility for behaviour in their lessons and take action to facilitate this. **All staff should plan for good behaviour.** All members of staff must insist upon high standards of behaviour, discipline and uniform from all students and must follow and consistently apply the Behaviour for Learning (BfL) policy, as laid out in the BfL Handbook.

The criteria for our Lesson Monitor systems, is displayed in all classrooms, in student planners and in the BfL handbook (See Appendix 2).

Staff interventions must be incremental and range from

- A teacher warning- student name added to the appropriate "working towards" board at the front of the classroom.
- If a second warning is required, speaking to the pupil privately about their behaviour choices outside the room, this discussion must take place promptly and readmission to the lesson should take place. A tick added to the appropriate "working towards" board at the front of the classroom.
- Issuing the appropriate Lesson Monitor code and actioning as outlined in the BfL handbook.
- Issuing a teacher/departmental detention at break or lunch time
- Contacting home
- Liaising with their Curriculum Leader

Class teachers issuing a '3' or '4' on the Lesson Monitor system must communicate clearly the reason for this and the action they have taken in the comments function within SIMS registers. If a teacher gives a '3' or '4' on Lesson Monitor, then they must issue a break or lunch time detention. If a teacher issues a '4', they must contact home.

Students must always be informed if they have received a '3' or a '4'.

Should a pupil continue to fail to follow a member of staff's instructions or disrupt learning, the pupil may be removed from the lesson using the departmental SOS system and set work in another classroom, according to the department's SOS timetable. Should a student's behaviour continue to be disruptive, defiant or abusive the member of staff may call a **red card**.

In this instance the student will be removed from the lesson by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Reflect Team and placed in the school's reflect room for a period of 5 lessons, a break and a lunch. Parents and carers will be emailed by the Reflect Team and the member of staff who issued the red card will contact home at the first opportunity.

Students who receive two or more '3's or '4's in a day will automatically be red-carded and spend a period of 5 lessons, a break and a lunch in Reflect.

Should a student's behaviour fall below expectations in one particular subject area, as indicated by Lesson Monitor' the Curriculum Leader may use a Curriculum Leader report (**Green report**) with subject specific targets to help support the improvement of behaviour choices.

BfL within the department will feature as an agenda item in Critical Friend meetings with SLT.

When a student's behaviour does not meet our expectations, students may be asked to provide either a verbal or written account to represent their views. Other students present at the time of the poor behaviour may also be asked for a verbal or written account to inform staff to ensure that an appropriate sanction is put into place.

## **6. Red cards**

*Red cards are for emergencies only and should not be used if pupils are actually complying with your requests, e.g., to SOS. They should not be used as an alternative to the Departmental SOS system.*

If a pupil is persistently disrupting teaching and learning the member of staff should put in place alternative strategies or make alternative arrangements with the curriculum leader or departmental colleagues.

**If a red card is issued this must be recorded as a '4' on lesson monitor and detailed comments added.**

### **What Constitutes an emergency**

Where a pupil has:

1. Refused to leave the room following an SOS.
2. Been awarded a second Lesson Monitor grade of 3 or 4 in a day.
3. Used Verbally aggressive and confrontational language against a member of staff or pupil, including the use of homophobic, racist or sexualised language.
4. Become engaged in a serious fight with another pupil.
5. Physically abused a member of staff.
6. Left the lesson without permission.



## 7. Refusal to hand over a prohibited item.

### **How to issue a red card**

The member of staff either:

- Sends a pupil to the main office/student services to ask for a red card procedure to be out in place – preferably using their laminated red card. It should be made clear what the red card is being issued for. The office will indicate on the red card that they have been informed.

OR

- Asks for support from a colleague in an adjacent classroom to activate the red card procedures.

### **What happens next?**

- Student Services will contact the Reflect room with details of the red card.
- The pupil will be removed and will be isolated for a period of 5 lessons, a break and a lunch. Parents/carers will be informed that their child has received a red card and that they will be out of circulation. Appropriate work will be provided.
- The member of staff issuing the red card must email an account of the incident to the Reflect/KS team and their Curriculum leader ASAP. Further follow up may be required.
- The teacher who has issued the red card should contact parents at the end of the school day to follow up on the holding email that they would have received from the Reflect team.
- The red card will be recorded on the pupils record in CPOMS.

NOTE: If there is an issue regarding the reason for, or implementation of the Red Card, the Reflect team/KS/SLT duty staff have the professional responsibility to rescind the sanction at any time.

## **7. The Role of Progress and Learning Managers**

Progress managers will focus particularly on LM6 interventions. KS Learning managers will focus particularly on LM3/4 interventions.

### **Reports and Sanctions**

If a pupil receives 3 or more lesson monitor grades 3 or 4, they will be placed onto a report. Dependant on how many times this has happened previously during the term will determine what colour and level of report that they will be placed on. A detention will also be issued alongside the report. The details of this can be seen below:

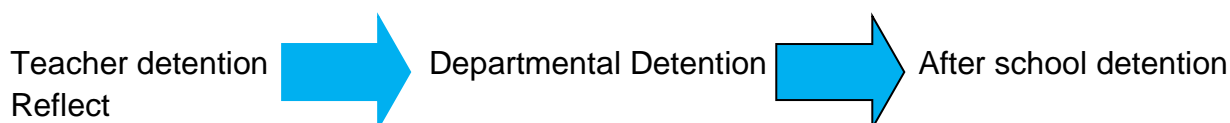
Green report	30-Minute Monday lunchtime detention
Amber Report	30-minute Monday lunchtime detention and a 15-minute Tuesday lunchtime detention
Red Report	30-minute Monday and Tuesday lunchtime detention

The lesson monitor grade 6 catch-up sessions that are issued for persistent lack of effort in lessons will continue to run on a Monday after school for any students who receives 3 lesson monitor grade 6's or more within a week.

If a pupil fails to show up for a lesson monitor detention will be placed into the reflect room for a full day.

Alongside the Lesson Monitor Reports, we will introduce a head of key stage report. This report will be issued to any student who flags up as a behaviour concern both in and out of lessons. The report will run for 8 weeks and will be run by the head of key stage.

If a student does not attend a detention that has been issued, it will be escalated to the next step in the sanction ladder. The escalation in sanctions can be seen below:



## 7. Detentions

If a student's choice of behaviour results in a LM3 or 4 being issued, the teacher will action a break or lunch time detention. These detentions are recorded on the behaviour wizard and monitored by heads of department and the Assistant Head in charge or behaviour.

After school detentions are part of the school's BfL system. Whilst parental consent is **NOT** required, parents will be informed if the detention is to take place after school via letter and text at least 24 hours prior to the detention. After school detentions are generally awarded for such things as infringements of the Code of Conduct, persistent failure to attend teacher detentions, smoking, theft, vandalism, or disruption of teaching and learning but this list is not exhaustive.

After school detentions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3.15pm and 4.15pm and are supervised by members of staff under the direction of a member of SLT. Staff must escort pupils to detention at the end of period 5. At the detention students will either access MS Teams to improve an area of weakness in their learning or log onto online resources that they can work through. If, a pupil chooses not to work or does not

pass the detention then they will repeat the detention at the next opportunity. If a pupil does not turn up to their scheduled detention, then they will be put into seclusion.

## **8.Uniform**

All students are expected to wear correct uniform. Items of incorrect uniform will be confiscated by members of staff and held in student services until the end of the school day. The nature of the incorrect uniform will be recorded by student services and this information will be reviewed on a weekly basis by Key Stage teams and SLT. Repeated confiscations will result in parents having to collect the confiscated item from the school office. Pupils who consistently break uniform rules will be put onto a uniform report. If issues still occur whilst on report then a daily sanction will be put into place.

## **9. Reflect and Reset**

Pupils may be referred to spend a day in the reflect room by a member of the Senior Leadership or Key Stage Team. Whilst in reset, pupils must adhere to the strict rules laid down by the Reset team. If a student is red carded or booked into the reflect room, the sanction duration will be for 5 lessons, a break and a lunchtime. For example, If a pupil is placed into reflect during period 2 on Tuesday, they will go back into circulation at the end of period 2 on Wednesday. Pupils will be supplied with academic work for them to complete whilst they are in the reflect room.

Depending on the severity of the problem, some pupils may be referred to seclusion for a number of days or asked to attend seclusion in a partner school. Where a pupil's behaviour has resulted in suspension from school for more than 5 days, alternative provision will be put into place.

## **10. High Order Sanctions**

Repeated failure by an individual to respond to support offered within school and/or by external agencies in order to turn behaviour round and improve behaviour choices, could lead to one or more high order sanctions being put into place. These include shadowing members of the Senior Leadership Team for a period of time, suspensions, being placed on a governor contract, a managed transfer to a partner secondary school, alternative provision or being placed on a Pastoral Support Programme (PSP).

A PSP involves being placed on a 16-week support programme. The student is supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team daily who will attend the initial meeting as well as interim and final review meetings, along with parents and any representatives from external agencies who have been involved. A pupil only does one PSP. If the behaviour of the pupil remains unacceptable, the pupil will be referred to a Governor Disciplinary Panel and a parenting contract will be negotiated and signed. Failure to modify behaviour can lead to permanent exclusion.

## **11. Off-Site Behaviour**

The Head reserves the right to punish pupils for actions off the school site in order to: maintain good order on transport, educational visits, or other placements such as work experience or college courses; secure behaviour which does not threaten the health or safety of pupils, staff or members of the public; provide reassurance to members of the public about school care and control over pupils and thus protect the reputation of the school; provide protection to individual staff from harmful conduct by pupils of the school when not on site.

## **12. Bullying**

Bullying of all kinds is unacceptable whether it is between students and students, staff and students or staff and staff. The school has a clear anti-bullying policy which has been written and regularly updated by a cross section of the student community. The policy is made available to pupils and parents via the Student Planner and website. The school is proactive in preventing and dealing with bullying through such things as curriculum lessons, drama workshops, surveys, the Buddy and Anti-Bullying Ambassador team and Access Team personnel such as the Inclusion Mentor and Connect Centre Manager. (See the Anti-Bullying Policy).

## **13. Child on Child Abuse**

Children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer-on-peer abuse, peer relationship abuse, child on child abuse and teenage relationship abuse). This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse • ‘Upskirting’ is where someone takes a picture under a person’s clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.
- Teenage relationship abuse
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals

Staff are clear on our procedures with regards to child-on-child abuse and do not take it any less serious than adult to child abuse; they are aware that it should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”.

Where sexual violence or sexual harassment between children is alleged then the school follows the guidance issued by the DfE in 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassmentbetween-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

Where youth produced sexual images are part of the abuse then the school follows the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-foreducation-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

Child on child abuse will not be tolerated- further information in the bullying section of the School Safeguarding policy.

#### **14. Search and Confiscation**

A member of the Senior Leadership Team can conduct a search if they believe that a pupil has offensive weapons, alcohol or drugs in his/her possession. This can be made without consent if there are reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil may have these items in their possession. The search must be carried out with another member of staff present and will usually be carried out by a member of the same sex. ***Parental permission is not required.*** If staff believe there is a risk involved, they must call the police.

A teacher can confiscate and retain an item for one day if: it poses a threat to others e.g. a laser pen; it poses a threat to the good order of learning e.g. a mobile phone or personal music player is being used in lesson; it is against school uniform rules e.g. a hoodie; it is a health and safety threat e.g. inappropriate jewellery; it is counter to the ethos of the school For example, offensive literature, or it is an item which it is illegal for a child to have e.g. cigarettes, vapours, racist or pornographic material.

The member of staff must make the item available for collection from Student Services at 3.15pm by the pupil or, if appropriate, by the parent.

Items brought into school for the purpose of making a profit (including fizzy drinks, cigarettes, alcohol and sweets) will also be confiscated and the parents contacted in order to make arrangements for their collection. Illegal items will be handed over to the police.

An addition that we have made to the search and confiscation procedure is the use of metal detectors. This amendment has been put into place due to the changing nature of smoking and the increasing use of vapes. If we suspect that a student or group of students have been vaping or are intending to vape, then we may use the metal detector to help us ascertain if a student is in possession of a vape.

If a student refuses to be searched they will be red carded and/or suspended for refusal to follow instructions.

#### **15. Reasonable Force**

The school reserves the right to use 'reasonable force' where necessary. This may include using reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property. Examples of reasonable force can range from guiding a student to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight. (See the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy).

The DfEE circular dated 10/98 states 'the law forbids a teacher to use any degree of physical contact which is deliberately intended to punish a pupil, or which is primarily intended to cause pain or injury or humiliation.'

Restraint should only be used in circumstances where there are grounds for believing that the pupil is placing him/herself or other people in immediate danger or where there is a likelihood of significant damage to property.

Before intervening physically, a teacher should, where practicable, tell the pupil who is misbehaving to stop and should continue to attempt to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident to the extent of informing the pupil of the fact that force is about to be used and why.

The following forms of physical intervention might be construed as reasonable in cases described above where all methods have failed:

- Physically interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path
- Holding
- Pushing
- Pulling
- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away with a hand in the centre of the back

It is illegal to lock a pupil in a room or cupboard which they cannot leave of their own volition.

Reasonable force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the potential proceedings. It must be reasonable in the circumstances meaning using no more force than is needed. There is a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with SEN.

The following actions would **not** be seen as reasonable:

- Holding the pupil around the neck or by the collar or in any way that might restrict the ability to breath
- Slapping, punching, tripping or kicking a pupil
- Twisting or forcing limbs against the joint
- Holding or pulling a pupil by the hair or ear
- Any touching that might be considered indecent

At **Malbank** physical force should **not** be used in situations where:

- A pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave the classroom
- A pupil insists on leaving the room (unless the adult thinks that they would come to harm)
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson
- A pupil walks away from a member of staff

In such cases a member of staff would issue a Red Card to call for assistance.

Any complaint from a parent will be dealt with by the Headteacher in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

In cases of physical restraint, a written report will be kept on the child's file. It is recommended that it is written within 12 hours of an incident occurring. It is strongly recommended that a member of staff independent of the incident ascertains if injuries have been sustained.

It is recommended that staff familiarise themselves with the document "Use of Reasonable force in schools' July 2013.

#### **16. Malicious Allegation made Against a Member of Staff**

Any allegation made against a member of staff will be investigated thoroughly and on an individual basis. If an allegation has been found to be made up by a pupil, this will be sanctioned as appropriate. This may include the use of seclusion and / or exclusion. Parents will be kept informed throughout the investigation.

#### **17. Exclusions**

Exclusions and suspensions can only be carried out on the authority of the Head teacher or a Deputy/Assistant Head teacher acting on behalf of the Head. The school will comply with all statutory guidelines governing exclusions. (See Exclusions Policy).

If a student failed to respond to suspensions, the Headteacher has the right to insist that a student is educated off site and given alternative provision. In extreme circumstances, students can be permanently excluded.

#### **18. Implementation**

- A copy of the school's Behaviour and Attendance Handbook detailing the practical implementation of our BfL policy is made available to all staff in electronic form.
- A copy of the Code of Conduct and Lesson monitor grades are displayed in all classrooms.

- The Student Booklet contains up to date information about key aspects of the BfL policy and practice. For example, Anti-bullying policy; Shared Expectations, Code of Conduct and Lesson Monitor criteria.
- Staff training on aspects of the BfL policy is provided annually.
- The Deputy Head teacher (Behaviour & Standards) develops and implements strategies which secure high standards of behaviour in partnership with all staff, SLT and the Access (Pastoral Support) Team. He collates and analyses BfL data and reports to SLT and the Governing Body. He acknowledges the responsibilities and celebrates the achievements of individuals and teams.

## **Appendix 1**

### **19. Bus Behaviour – Code of Conduct**

#### **Principle**

At **Malbank School** we believe that everyone has the right to enjoy school life in a safe, friendly environment. We encourage respect for others and their property, and we strive to ensure that everyone is valued equally and treated with respect, regardless of aptitude, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender, disability or social status.

Students are required to follow the basic rules and codes of conduct and be good ambassadors for the school at all times. They are expected to behave responsibly on their journey to and from school. The aim of this code of conduct is to ensure that all parties are clear of the behaviour expectations whilst waiting for and travelling on a school bus.

All students who travel on buses must follow the bus code to ensure safe travel.

#### **Student responsibilities.**

- All students must line up as directed by the members of staff on duty if they are waiting for a bus to arrive. Students must get on the bus in an orderly way and must not push in.
- Students must make sure that they are using the correct bus – the bus that they have a pass or ticket to use.
- Passes / bus tickets must be shown to the bus driver as students get onto the bus. If students do not do this, they may be asked to pay a fare.
- Students must be polite to the bus driver.
- All students must remain in their seat until the bus stops. If standing is allowed on a bus, students standing must remain still while the bus is moving. Students should not stop other students from sitting down.
- Where they are available, seatbelts must be worn by all students.
- Students must not distract the driver; this is not safe.



- Students should not throw any objects on the bus and must make sure that any litter is picked up before getting off the bus.
- If students see poor behaviour on the bus, they must report it. This can be reported to form tutors, the Key Stage team or to Mrs Sproston.
- Treat one another with respect.
- Students who chose to use their mobile phones must do so responsibly.
- To follow the main school code of conduct.

**Should a pupil behave inappropriately and not follow the code of conduct then the following sanctions may be put into place.**

- Warnings may be given by the bus company that continued poor behaviour may result in a ban from using the bus.
- Bans may be issued by the bus company, either a time fixed ban or a permanent ban. If the behaviour of a student is deemed to be putting the health and safety of others at risk a warning may not be issued.
- Sanctions may be put into place by the school including detentions, seclusion or fixed term exclusions in line with the school behaviour for learning policy. **To help students to follow the code on conduct.**

#### **School.**

- There will always be a team of staff who are on bus duty at the front and the back of school.
- The staff on duty will ensure that students are lining up when waiting for a bus and ensure that students get on the bus without pushing.
- The staff on bus duty will ensure that any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with as soon as possible.
- The school will liaise with the bus companies to investigate any reports of poor behaviour.

#### **The Bus Driver.**

- Will check all passes / tickets as students get onto the bus.
- Should try to develop positive relationships with students by greeting them as they get onto the bus.
- Will ask students to use the seats when they are available and ensure that students are not standing if this is not permitted.
- Will not use personal headphones or any mobile devices that could have a negative effect on the health and safety of the passengers. All speed limits will be adhered to.
- Should speak to students in an appropriate way when informing them of expectations on the bus and always use safety as a reference point.

#### **The Bus Company.**

- Will ensure that only suitably qualified drivers will be employed, and that appropriate training is given.
- Where possible CCTV will be used and shared with school as necessary to help investigate incidents of poor behaviour.
- Will investigate when there are reports of inappropriate driver conduct, such as using headphones when driving and follow company procedures regarding this.
- Will communicate clearly with school and parents when issuing a ban from the bus, providing reasons for the ban.

## Parents.

- Should reinforce the importance of the bus code of conduct.
- Support the school in ensuring that the safety of students is paramount
- Report any issues relating to bus behaviour to the relevant Key Stage team or Angela Miller (Strategic Business Manager)

This Code of Conduct was written by

- The student Council of **Malbank School and Sixth Form College**
- Staff representatives
- Parent representatives
- Bus company representatives • Local Authority representatives.

## Appendix 2.

### 20. Quality First Teaching

As far as managing behaviour is concerned, members of staff are the most important people in the classroom. A teacher's behaviour and attitude will influence and affect how pupils behave.

*'I've come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I have a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humour, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanised or dehumanised.'*

*Hiam Ginnot, between teacher and child: A book for parents and teachers*

The following are common examples of skills and strategies that are known to be effective in promoting positive behaviour:

- **Quality first teaching** – plan; make clear your learning outcomes; use a range of teaching styles; ensure all children are clear about their learning targets; personalise learning so that all needs are catered for; foster independent learning; involve pupils in self-assessment, setting targets, establishing learning style and reviewing learning etc.

- **Model good behaviour** – arrive on time, meet and greet at the doorway, know the children as individuals, call them by their first name, model the standards of courtesy expected from pupils, say thank you following each instruction, avoid sarcasm, keep to time in the lesson and finish on time, ensure an orderly exit.
- **Create a positive atmosphere** – treat the children with respect, create an atmosphere whereby children feel important, known, valued and successful, celebrate effort, give positive reinforcement and praise, praise should be personal, specific, credible and differentiated, be fair and consistent, make your expectations positive and clear, make good use of rewards, use humour.
- **Deal with difficult situations in a quiet and confident manner** – talk to a child quietly and privately, don't shout or humiliate, remove the struggle for power, provide choices so that children take responsibility for their own behaviour, make mistakes a normal part of learning, follow up on issues which count, be a good listener and give a right of reply, be prepared to apologise after a mistake.
- **Separate the behaviour from the person** – don't make it personal, don't bear grudges, treat every lesson as a fresh start, don't issue threats which are not then carried out, never give whole class punishments, look for a compromise.
- **Ensure that the classroom environment re-enforces good behaviour** – follow the boy/girl seating plan, use co-operative learning strategies, display work done by the pupils and keep it up to date, keep the room tidy and interesting.

## 21. Lesson Monitor

The school has adopted a 'Lesson Monitor' system.

The aim of the system is to ensure consistency in applying rewards and sanctions across the school.

### How does it work?

- Rather than marking a pupil as present or absent, in each lesson all pupils will get a mark for their behaviour.
- At the start of every lesson, registers should be taken identifying pupils that are present with a '2'. It needs to be made clear to pupils that the register is being taken.
- '2' indicates that the pupil's behaviour is good.

- If a student's behaviour is better than good, the '2' should be changed to a '1' on the register.
- The pupil must be told that their mark has been changed.

### **Recording disruption**

- If a pupil disrupts a lesson, they will receive a warning and their name will be written on the board. This includes arriving late without a genuine reason. The only genuine reason is that a student has been held back by a member of staff. If this is the case, the member of staff will issue the student with a late slip, which must be presented to the class teacher upon request.
- If a pupil disrupts the lesson for a second time, a lesson monitor grade 3 will be issued and a 3 will be written next to their name, on the board.
- The teacher will also issue a teacher detention which will be scheduled for a break or lunchtime.
- If there is further disruption after a 3 has been issued, then a lesson monitor grade 4 will be issued and a 4 will be written next to the name on the board. At this point, the pupil will be removed from the classroom and will have to carry out the remainder of the lesson in another classroom that they will be directed to.
- The teacher will then issue a break or lunch time detention and contact home with the details of what happened during the lesson.

### **Recording a lack of effort**

- A pupil's effort falls below expectations – first warning – name on the board.
- The pupil continues to work at a rate that is below expectations – final warning – tick on the board
- Pupil continues to work at a rate that is below expectations – LM grade 6 issued – 6 written next to name on the board. Change LM grade and add comments to SIMS.

The following information includes the lesson grade criteria and what happens when different grades are awarded – the role of the teacher, department, form tutor and that of the Pastoral teams including the Progress Managers.

### **Praise**

Praise and reward is the most effective tool in behaviour management.

Praise helps to build positive relationships which are central to success in the classroom.

It is important not to just praise good work but also to recognise good behaviour and positive contributions to school life.

Make a point of catching students doing well.

### **Remember – PIP & RIP - Praise in public, Reprimand in private.**

All staff should make at least 2 positive contacts with parents each week. This may include a call home or a postcard of praise.

Other examples of good practise are:

- Stickers in books
- Certificates
- Emails to tutors
- Using student of the week in assemblies
- Making every effort to engage with pupils both inside and outside the classroom •
- Using displays to celebrate students work.
- Issuing Random Acts of Kindness cards to students.

### **Rewards and Sanctions – Progress to be the Best**

Behaviour grade	Form tutor response	Teacher and / or faculty response	Pastoral team / SLT response.
<b>3/6</b>	<p>Conduct weekly checks of BfL grades to issue 'Golden Tickets' to those students who have at least a 2 in every lesson that week. Use 'edit marks' to do this.</p> <p>Monitor BfL grades on a daily basis when taking the register in a morning.</p> <p>Suggested actions for BfL concerns;</p> <p>Contact home</p> <p>Referral to Progress/Learning Manager</p>	<p><b>The minimum expectation is that the BfL 3/6 is recorded on the register, the teacher must right click and enter the reason and the sanction. <u>The student must know that they have received a BfL 3/6.</u></b></p> <p>At least one of the actions <b>must</b> have taken place</p> <p>Teacher warning in line with the whole</p>	<p>Students who receive 3 BfL 3's and 4's or 6's or over for the week will be sanctioned on Friday, Monday or Tuesday detentions. The sanctions will be incremental as indicated in the table mentioned earlier in the policy.</p>

4	BfL 4 should have been recorded on SIMS. If this has not happened, it should be referred to the Head of School.	<p>school policy outlined above</p> <p>Teacher detention</p> <p>Referral to a departmental detention</p> <p>Referral to an after-school detention for failure to attend a departmental detention.</p> <p>Targets set by CL</p> <p>A teacher must incrementally increase their sanction.</p> <p><b>The minimum expectation is that BfL 4 is recorded on the register, the teacher must right click and enter the reason and sanction.</b></p> <p><b>The student must be removed to the departmental SOS room.</b></p> <p><b>The student must know that they have received a BfL 4 and that they will serve a teacher detention.</b></p> <p><b>Detention issued by teacher using the detention wizard.</b></p> <p><b>Staff must contact</b></p>	<p>See table above for the sanctions put into place.</p> <p>Head of School to discuss all BfL 4's at Critical friend meetings and/or STAR meetings</p>
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<p><b>4 Red Cards</b></p>		<p><b>parents / carers.</b></p> <p>A possible action to improve BfL could be removed into another classroom for a maximum of 3 subsequent lessons.</p> <p>Red cards to be issued where a pupil has;</p> <p>Become engaged in a serious fight with another pupil</p> <p>Physically abused a member of staff</p> <p>Refused to leave the room following:</p> <p>persistent misbehaviour/ disruption of the lesson.</p> <p>Used verbally aggressive and confrontational language against a member of staff or pupil, including the use of homophobic, racist or sexualised language.</p> <p>Been awarded a second Lesson Monitor grade of 3 or 4 in a day.</p> <p>Left the lesson without permission.</p>	<p>Reflect/SLT/Pastoral team collect the student from the classroom and organise with the pastoral team for the student to be isolated in the reflect room.</p> <p>SLT/Pastoral team contact home.</p>
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		<p>Refusal to hand over a prohibited item.</p> <p>For students who are repeat offenders in a subject, subjects are to contact home. Homework should be completed in departmental detention.</p> <p>When a red card is issued – The teacher who issued the red card should <b>contact parents at the end of the day</b> to follow up on the initial phone call made by SLT and to inform parents of the meeting that will take place the following morning.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Homework Progress Managers will monitor students who are receiving 3 or more '7's' in a week.</b></p>	<p>On the first occasion the Form Tutor should interview the student</p> <p>A further 3 7's results in a referral to the Progress Manager</p>	<p>For students who are repeat offenders in a subject, subjects are to contact home. Homework should be completed in departmental detention.</p>	<p>Heads of school will action referrals and ensure that parents are contacted</p>
<b>9</b>			



<b>Equipment</b>  <b>Progress Managers will monitor students receiving 3 or more 9's in a week</b>	Monitor Bfl grades in registration  Conduct a weekly random check of the pencil case policy  Sanction as appropriate for pencil case issues  Conduct whole school equipment checks as directed by the DHT	The minimum expectation is that the BfL 9 is recorded on the register and ensure that the student has recorded it in their planner. The student must know that they have received a BfL 9.	Heads of school will action referrals and ensure that parents are contacted
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## 22. Curriculum Leader Intervention

If a pupil continues to cause problems for a member of staff in an **isolated subject area** there may be a need to ask the Curriculum Leader for support.

The curriculum leader must devise a Department support timetable either within the department or across departments if necessary. The support timetables must be shared with all staff in the department and displayed in the classroom. Copies of all support timetables must be shared with Vicki Denny so that cover supervisors and supply staff also have access.

Consistent negative LM grades in the same lesson/subject will mean that:

- The Curriculum Leader will **discuss the problem with the teacher**, review lesson monitor and check that all the intervention strategies have been adopted.
- The Curriculum Leader will then put the pupil on the CL report. The CL should **meet with the pupil** and negotiate targets for the report over a minimum of 6 lessons – these should then be shared with parents/carers.
- During this period, if a pupil receives a 3 or 6 then they will have to serve a break/lunchtime sanction at the first opportunity. The details of the length of these detentions will be discussed during initial conversation. Any detentions that are issues will be communicated to the student and to home.
- If a pupil fails to show up for the detention, then they can be put onto the departmental detention.
- If a pupil receives a 4, then an SOS, a teacher school detention is to be issued as normal in line with BfL policy

- After the 6 lesson period, the recent performance of the student should be discussed with the teacher and the Curriculum Leader and a decision should be made as to whether the report is put into place again or the report has been passed. This needs to be clearly communicated to home and to the pupil.
- The CL should liaise with the KS team to ensure that there are no other issues.
- If behaviour is only an issue for this department, the procedure remains in this loop. Additional strategies should be used to support staff which may include team teaching, the pupil being moved to a different group, use of the reset room via agreement with the Critical friend and/or discussion with the departmental Critical friend.

**If poor behaviour is an issue in a range of subject areas this will be identified by lesson monitor and the Progress Managers will intervene as indicated in the lesson monitor guidance.**

### **23. After School Detentions**

Failure to attend a departmental detention may trigger an after-school detention. It is the responsibility of the department to follow it up and deal with it by contacting home.

Should a department need to refer a pupil to an after-school detention this must be done via the detention wizard.

All after school detentions will be set up for a Tuesday or Thursday from 3.15 – 4.15pm. At least 24 hours' notice will be given to parents/carers.

An after-school detention may be issued for the following reasons:

- Assault involving pupils
- Bullying
- Code of Conduct infringement
- Department escalation by Curriculum Leader
- Defiance – out of lesson
- Disruptive behaviour – out of lesson
- Vandalism
- Persistent lateness to lessons
- Persistent lateness to school – monitored by the KS teams.
- Smoking
- Theft
- Persistent failure to comply with uniform code
- Verbal abuse of teacher
- Out of bounds

- Report failure

### How to place pupils in detention

- **Any member of staff issuing an after-school detention MUST first inform the pupil concerned and be prepared to respond to parental enquiries.**
- The teacher issuing the detention must fill in the WIZARD record log **explaining in clear terms** the reasons for the sanction. If swear word/threats have been used, use direct quotes rather than generalisations. **This log WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE DETENTION LETTER and will have the issuing staff's initials on it.**
- The detention wizard will generate a generic parental letter and send it home.
- The Assistant Head (Behaviour & Standards) will monitor detentions termly, liaise with the Behaviour Administrator and provide an annual report to SLT and the governors.

### Detention Duty

- After school detentions take place on a Tuesday or a Thursday, 3.15-4.15.
- The Behaviour Wizard will email parents/carers about the sanction giving 24 hours' notice. They will supply all staff with a working list on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- All staff members are requested to remind pupils throughout the day to attend detention.
- **To ensure the smooth running of the sanction system all staff must escort the pupils who are on the detention list to detention at 3.15.**
- A missed Tuesday detention will result in an automatic period in reflect.
- The Duty SLT supervisor will follow up missed detentions and any misbehaviour in detention with the pupil concerned and contact parents as appropriate.
- The staff detention rota is in the Staff Planner. It is the responsibility of the member of staff to find a replacement should they know in advance that they cannot attend.

### Detention Activities

- GCSE pod
- On-line learning

- Catch up work
- Coursework

## **24. Reset**

- **Referral to Reflect can be done by members of SLT and Key Stage Teams only via the Wizard.**
- **HODs should consult the Key Stage Team for advice.**
- **The Assistant Head (Behaviour & Standards) will gate keep referrals via the Wizard and is the line manager of the Behaviour Administrator/Seclusion Manager**
- **The Seclusion Manager is responsible for the smooth running of the room.**

## **Reason for placing a pupil in reflect may include**

- Persistent disruption of teaching and learning
- Theft, vandalism
- Bullying
- Physical assault of a fellow pupil
- Failure to meet a PSP target (at discretion of SLT)
- Red Card (at discretion of SLT)
- Parental refusal of after school detention
- Emergency referral by member of the KS team or SLT
- Verbal abuse of a member of staff
- Alternative to exclusion/part of extended 10- or 15-day package
- Arranged transfer with a neighbouring secondary school

## **Procedure for placing a pupil in reflect**

- Member of SLT, HOD or Key Stage Team OR the member of staff who issued the red card will contact home to inform parents of the sanction. They then contact the relevant Key Stage Team who will record it on SIMS.
- The Wizard is used to make the referral.
- The Key stage teams will hold the Seclusion room diary and must liaise with the Seclusion room manager.
  - Seclusion room rules are explained clearly to all students who are placed in seclusion.

## **Academic work**

- It is the responsibility of subject staff, NOT the Reflect Manager, to ensure that appropriate work has been set for each child entering seclusion.
- Requests for work and reminders will be sent by email.
  - The Seclusion Manager will collect work electronically via MS Teams at the start of the day. Staff who cannot meet this deadline should send work to the Seclusion Room before their scheduled lesson with the child.

## **25.Pastoral Support Programme**

- A pupil can only be placed on a PSP following referral by the STAR group.
- The PSP is essentially an instrument of support.
- The Key Stage Administrator will notify the parents of the PSP and record it on SIMS.
- The letter which will be personalised and written by the PSP Lead, will be sent home along with a copy of the PSP information pack.
- Information gathered for the PSP meeting will include tracking data, an ILP/IBP and a behaviour log.
- The PSP induction meeting will in most cases be a multi-agency meeting attended by key support workers. For example, the School Nurse, EWO, Connexions PA, SENCO, CAMHS, a member of the KS Team, SLT and the form tutor, parents and a nominated governor. The parent may choose to be accompanied to this meeting.
- It involves a 16-week programme on YELLOW report. A maximum of 3 targets are set and are monitored on a daily basis. One target must be linked to lesson monitor, and it must be made clear to pupils and parents that should they be graded a 3 or 4 on lesson monitor, this would lead to seclusion. An interim review is held after 8 weeks. The same or different targets might be pursued. A governor will be invited to the review. There will be a final review meeting at the end of the programme.
- If after a successful completion of the PSP, behaviour returns to being unacceptable the pupil should be seen by Governor Disciplinary Panel. A parenting contract will be negotiated and signed.
- A pupil only does one PSP. A period of additional monitoring might be done by a member of SLT to review progress.
- Failure to modify behaviour can lead to permanent exclusion.

## **26.High Order Sanctions Procedure**

The following list indicates the pathways down which a pupil may be taken in light of their failure to respond to repeated attempts by both the school and external agencies to turn behaviour around. A pupil may not necessarily be subjected to all such sanctions before a permanent exclusion can be made.

**Stage 2:** Student placed on report and escalated from green, amber, red if required.

**Stage 3:** Half termly behaviour review meeting with student, parents, progress manager and SLT. Formal Lesson Monitor targets for the following half term.

**Stage 4:** Failure to meet Stage 3 targets results in an additional parental meeting and cycle of Lesson Monitor targets for the following half term, with implications of PSP discussed at parental meeting.

**Stage 5:** PSP initiated.

**Stage 6:** Governors Disciplinary panel meeting with student, parents, Key Stage representatives and SLT.

**Stage 7:** Alternative provision for education of student established.

**Stage 8:** Managed transfer to another school.

**Stage 9:** Permanent exclusion.

## **27. Guidance on Out of Lesson Behaviour**

- **Members of staff are requested to be proactive at all times in maintaining good order around the site.**
- **Do not ignore bad behaviour.**
- Prompt arrival to your duty area is essential, accidents do occur in school and if such accidents occur in a duty area where a member of staff is missing, we are culpable.
- When on duty, actively monitor your area to ensure the safety and welfare of the pupils. For example, ask for litter to be put in the bin.
- On most occasions a verbal warning will be sufficient to stop inappropriate behaviour.

- For serious breaches of the code of conduct. For example. smoking, violence, bullying, damage to school property, the member of staff should issue a detention or an appropriate sanction and the incident should be reported to the duty team leader and appropriate Key Stage Learning Manager.

## **27. Mobile Phone Policy**

### **Rationale**

**Malbank School and Sixth Form College** takes its responsibility of keeping all children safe seriously. The Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance (September 2016) states that schools must ensure that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful content on the internet, including the need to consider mobile phones and devices which can access 3G and 4G.

This policy applies to the main school, students in Years 7 – 11. The Sixth Form College has a separate policy on the use of mobile phones etc.

### **Strategy**

Mobile Phones or any device which has access to the internet must not be used on site during the school day. Pupils who choose to bring their phones into school for the purposes of travelling to and from school must have their phones switched off and out of sight in their school bag during the school day.

Should a pupil need to contact a parent during the school day, this must be done via the relevant Key Stage Office. Should a parent need to make contact with their child during the school day they should contact the school office directly.

Any pupil found using a mobile phone or device during the school day will:

- Have the item confiscated by a member of staff and it will be placed in a labelled envelope in the school safe in the main school office and it should be collected at the end of the school day.
- Pupils who repeatedly use mobile phones or devices during the school day will have the item confiscated as above and will need a parent / carer to collect it from school. Repeated use of mobile phones will be considered to be defiance, and this will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy.
- Pupils who refuse to hand over a mobile phone or device when requested to do so will be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership team through the red card system outlined in the Behaviour for Learning policy.

### **Use of mobile phones on school trips**

In the initial trip letter it will specify whether pupils will be allowed to take a mobile phone on that trip. If a mobile phone is not permitted and a student is using their phone or device, it will be confiscated for the remainder of the school trip.

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings. **Malbank School and Sixth Form College** accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or devices.

## **28. School Attendance Policy 2023-24**

### **Mission statement**

**Malbank School** is committed to providing quality education in a friendly environment, characterised by support for the individual and high achievement amongst students of all ages, aptitudes and abilities. **Malbank School** recognises that punctuality and regular school attendance are essential to social inclusion and a prerequisite to effective learning.

The school aims to achieve good attendance by operating an attendance policy within which staff, pupils, parent(s)/carer(s), local community and the Education Welfare Service can work in partnership. The school will monitor attendance and ensure quick and early intervention if a problem is identified.

### **Aims of the Attendance Policy**

- To promote good attendance and punctuality through a clear framework of expectations accepted by parents/carers, students, staff and Governors.
- To provide support, advice and guidance to parents and students.
- To develop a systematic approach to collating and analysing attendance related data.
- To closely monitor students with attendance and/or punctuality concerns and to work with parents/carers where appropriate to bring about improvement.
- To work effectively with other services and agencies to improve individual students and whole school attendance.
- To recognise and reward good attendance.

### **Statutory Duties / Legislation**

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that “The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise”.

Section 444 of the Education Act states that: ***‘If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered student at school fails to attend regularly at the school, the parent is guilty of an offence.’***

### **Parents’/Carers’ responsibilities**



Parents (or the person with parental responsibility):

- Are primarily responsible for ensuring that children attend and stay at school.
- Should ensure that their children arrive at school on time **(before 8.45am)**, correctly dressed and prepared to learn.
- Should avoid making non-emergency medical/dental appointments for their child during school hours.
- Should be aware that medical or dental appointments made for the early morning which result in the pupil arriving in school after 9.15am when registers close, will result in an absence being recorded for the morning session. Afternoon registration is taken at 12:20pm.
- Should not, except under exceptional medical circumstances, keep their child off school all day for a medical appointment.
- Should phone the school daily for the first 3 days of their child's absence before 8.30am. On the fourth day they should provide full medical details of the absence and explain any likely further absence beyond the initial 3 days. A written letter/email to confirm details of the absence is required to reconcile the register.
- Should provide the school with medical evidence upon request.
- Should be aware that the school may **not** grant any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Should understand that **only the school**, within the context of the law, can approve or authorise absence. Parents have no entitlement to take their child out of school for a holiday during term time.
- Should provide the school with full written medical documentation confirming any medical condition that is likely to impact on attendance upon their transition to **Malbank**.
- Should work closely with the school to resolve any problems which may impede their child's attendance.

### **Students' responsibilities**

Students:

- Should attend school and all of their lessons on time, equipped and ready to learn.
- Must bring a note to explain their absence on the day of their return, or in advance if known.
- Must follow correct procedures when arriving late to school after the close of registers.
- Should understand that records of attendance and punctuality are included on all references.
- Should understand that failure to comply with policy and practice will result in sanctions. For example, truancy can result in a period in seclusion.
- Should discuss any problems concerning attendance with their form tutor or a member of the Key Stage Team.

## School responsibilities

The school will:

- Endeavour to provide an environment that is conducive to educating every pupil.
- Fulfil its statutory obligation to record and monitor the punctuality and attendance of students for both morning and afternoon sessions.
- Give high priority to punctuality and attendance.
- May deploy the Attendance Welfare Office to support families and follow up patterns of absence.
- Develop procedures that enable the school to identify, follow up and record unauthorised absence, patterns of absence and parent condoned absence with effective monitoring and intervention.
- Use a variety of strategies to promote good attendance and punctuality among parents and carers.
- Encourage open communication channels between home, school and the Education Welfare Team.
- Apply for a Penalty Notice when appropriate.
- Promote good attendance via a range of rewards.

## Staff Responsibilities

Staff:

- Will ensure that they accurately mark their registers using SIMS Lesson monitor or a paper copy at morning and afternoon registration.
- Will ensure that they follow the school's attendance and lateness procedures.
- Will be proactive in providing a positive ethos which places a high value on attendance and punctuality.

## School Procedures for Recording and Monitoring Attendance

- Students are expected to attend **Malbank** for the full 190 days of the academic year. The registers will be marked using the codes as advised by the Department of Education. Attendance registers will be marked in form at 8:45am and during period 4 between at 12:35pm and 1.35pm.

## School criteria for attendance

	Attendance
Excellent	100%
Good	96-99%

<b>Average</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>94-90%</b>
<b>Concern</b>	<b>85-90%</b>
<b>Serious Concern</b>	<b>Below 85%</b>

The school incorporates a whole school approach towards attendance. Below is an outline of the actions taken in response to each attendance threshold.

### Stage 1

Data to be analysed on a daily basis.

Data to look at:

- 95% and below.
- 10+ sessions with 'I' (ill) codes or 10 sessions with 'G' (unauthorised holiday) codes.
- 10 + sessions with 'O' (unknown, unauthorised absence) and 'U' codes (unauthorised absence).
- PA Threshold- 90% or below.
- SA (Severely absent) - Threshold 50%

### Stage 2

Decisions to be made which letters need to be sent out to parents:

- **Letter 1** (which is an informative letter).
- **Letter 2** Attendance Meeting Letter/Invite for parent. The LA views this as an early intervention tool targeted at students below 95% attendance which incorporates parents to supply **Medical Evidence** which will be considered (once the threshold of 10+ illness absences have been reached) at any stage of the process when it becomes appropriate to do so.

### Stage 3

When a student has accrued at least 10 (but not more than 26 due to LA Penalty Notice restriction) sessions of 'O' and/or 'U' codes within a term period, and an Attendance Meeting has been offered, Attendance Contracts have been offered also, school should consider requesting a Penalty Notice Warning Letter from the LA.

If there continues to be no improvement in attendance, then a Governors Attendance Panel will be called to review the case.

### Stage 4

10+ 'G' codes – if a student has accrued 10+ consecutive 'G' codes within a termly period, school request a Penalty Notice from the LA

### **Attendance letters**

Letters will be sent to parents/carers alerting them to a student's attendance when they enter or are close to entering a particular threshold. These also incur specific actions which are recorded on the centrally held database.

#### **Letter 1: This letter is information for Parents/carers**

Letter 1 is sent to notify parents/carers that a pupil has 96% or less attendance (**unauthorised and authorised absence**). It offers parents/carers an initial opportunity to communicate with school if there are specific problems that impact upon attendance.

#### **Letter 2: This letter is for action by parents/carers**

Letter 2 advises parents/carers that since Letter 1 had been sent, absences have continued (**authorised and unauthorised**). It invites parents/carers into school to discuss the situation to see if there is any further support school can offer. It offers school an opportunity to discuss the consequences of continued poor attendance ie Penalty Notice and other strategies such as an Attendance Contract.

School Policy states that after a student has taken 10 sessions of authorised illness during an academic year, formal medical evidence will be requested before any further illness absences can be authorised. Formal medical evidence does not need to be a letter from the GP, but could be a prescription or prescribed medication or a GP/nurse signature on a GP compliments slip or dated GP/nurse appointment card.

### **First Day Contact**

It is the parent/carers responsibility to inform school of the reason for a student's absence, and on every day of absence thereafter. If no contact is achieved from parents/carers on their first day of absence school will contact home via our dedicated absence telephone message line or our dedicated absence email address. If no contact can be achieved, then a home visit may be undertaken by our Attendance Officer or in some case Children's Services may be contacted.

### **Absence due to illness**

- Any medical absences in excess of 7 days (14 sessions) per academic year will need to be supported by medical evidence. If no medical evidence is received, then the absence will be coded as unauthorised.
- Medical evidence can take the form of either a dated GP/Nurse appointment card, a prescription or prescribed medication or a GP/Nurse signature on a GP Surgery compliment slip.
- Parents/carers should be aware that ten or more unauthorised absences over a term may result in them receiving a Penalty Notice.

## Monitoring pupil absence

The school recognises the need to monitor all student attendance closely. If there are concerns regarding attendance parents/carers will be notified. Our policy is to intervene and support before absence from school becomes prolonged or persistent.

- If attendance does not improve parents/carers will be invited into **Malbank School** for a meeting with a view to resolving the situation.
- If students engage in internal truancy they will be logged and sanctioned in line with the Behaviour policy.
- **Malbank School** works closely with Education Welfare Consultants, other outside agencies and the Local Authority to improve attendance without the need for any legal intervention.
- As a final measure when the attendance of a student does not show improvements, without good reason, **Malbank School** will contact the Local Authority regarding legal sanctions.

## Lateness

- Students are expected to register with their form tutor at 8.45am daily. The PM register will be taken during period 4 by the class teacher.
- Students arriving after 8.45am must sign in the late desk situated near the KS4 office. They will be signed in as late.
- A pupil who signs in late after 9.15am will be recorded as absent for that session.
- Pupils who are late to either registration or lessons will be given an after-school detention of day in seclusion, as appropriate. Parents will be informed. Pupils may be required to register with the relevant Key Stage team so that punctuality can be closely monitored and a meeting to discuss their lateness may be put into place alongside a Lateness Report and subsequently an Attendance Contract.

## Persistent Absence (PAs) and Severe Absence (SA):

Parents/carers should be advised that from September 2015 the Government have categorised those students who have an attendance of 90% and below as a 'Persistent Absentee'. The school recognises that pupils who are persistently absent from school require particularly close monitoring as, not only will their attainment be adversely affected but they may also be putting themselves at risk.

Parents/carers should be advised that the Government (Working together to improve school attendance May 2022) have classified students whose attendance is less than 50%

as “Severely Absent”. The school recognises that pupils who are severely absent from school require particularly close monitoring as, not only will their attainment be adversely affected but they may also be putting themselves at risk.

According to the DFE guidance (March 2013); ‘If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority’. In addition, ‘Local authorities have the power to prosecute parents who fail to comply with a school attendance order (section 443 of the Education Act 1996) or fail to ensure their child’s regular attendance at a school (section 444 of the Education Act 1996)’

- The student’s attendance will be monitored for a two-week period. If the student attends school every day during this period, no further action at this time will be taken.
- If the student is absent from school during this monitoring period parents will be expected to provide medical evidence (i.e. – medical appointment cards, copy of prescription, letters concerning hospital appointments, letters from professional organisations (CAMHS), print screen of medical notes, doctor’s medical certificate).
  - Following this if there continues to be no improvement in attendance and absences remain unauthorised, the school will undertake the necessary legal action against the parents. This will initially result in school applying to the Local Authority for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued to parents/carers. The Penalty is £60 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid within 28 days.

### **Attendance/Parenting Contracts**

Parents/carers should be advised that the Government (Working together to improve school attendance May 2022) outlines various strategies available to schools to support improving attendance. Specifically, a contract.

‘The aim from the outset should be for the parent(s), and the pupil where they are old enough, the school and the local authority to work in partnership. Where a school and/or local authority decide to use a parenting contract, a meeting should be arranged with the parent(s). It should include the pupil if they are old enough to understand. The meeting should explain the purpose of a parenting contract and why using one would be beneficial in the family’s circumstances. The parent(s) should be asked to outline their views on the pupil’s attendance at school, any underlying issues and how they believe these should be addressed. The meeting should also allow them to share their views on the idea of a parenting contract and what type of support they think would be helpful to secure the pupil’s regular attendance. Where a parent fails to attend the meeting without good reason or notification, further attempts should be made to contact them and arrange another

meeting but all attempts at support should be recorded' Copies of the contracts can be found on the school website.'

## **Penalty Notice**

Parents/carers should be aware that **Malbank School** may contact the Local Authority if a student has 10 or more unauthorised absences in any one term, with a view to issuing a Penalty Notice (PN). The Penalty Notice is issued individually to each parent/carer who fails to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. The penalty is £60 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. Non-payment of the Penalty Notice may result in prosecution in the magistrates Court. If proved guilty, the parent/carer will receive a criminal record.

## **Unauthorised Absence/Leave of Absence**

- Authorised absences include illness and emergency treatment during school hours.
- Absences which will not be authorised include looking after siblings, birthdays, shopping, general trips, family holidays. In addition to this, if you have been requested to provide medical evidence and have not provided this, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised
- Only the school, within the context of the law, can authorise or approve absence – not parents. The fact that a parent has submitted a note does not mean that the school must accept the explanation as a valid reason for absence. Absence without a valid reason, or where there is no explanation is offered at all is recorded as unauthorised absence. School may require medical evidence in order to authorise absences.
- Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. **Any request for a leave of absence under exceptional circumstances should be made in writing to the Head teacher.**

Where children have unauthorised absences as a result of a family holiday in term time, legal action may be taken against each parent under the following legislation:

**Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 provides that a parent commits an offence if his or her child, being of compulsory school age, fails to attend regularly the school at which he or she is a registered pupil.**

Section 444A allows for a penalty notice to be issued to parents who commit such an offence. The penalty is £60 which rises to £120 if not paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid after 28 days, the parents may be prosecuted. Failure to pay may result in prosecution; if convicted you may be likely to face a higher fine and a criminal record.

## **Reintegration of pupils after long term absence**

Pupils who have been absent from school for personal, social and emotional reasons will be reintegrated on a flexible timetable via the Inclusion Resource Centre (Connect).

### **Improving attendance – What parents can do?**

- Where possible make medical appointments outside of the school day. If this is not possible, please make sure your child is in school around the appointment.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for being on time to school. A reliable alarm clock and an appropriate bedtime would contribute to this.
- Discourage your child from staying overnight with friends during the week.
- Check with the relevant Key Stage team if you have any concerns as to whether your child is present in school.
- ***Contact the school for support so that we can work together to improve attendance with yourselves***
- Leave of absence during term time is not a parental right. **If there are special or exceptional circumstances, please contact the Headteacher in writing and a decision will be made if the absence can be authorised or not.**
- Encourage your child to come to school even if they are feeling slightly unwell. School will contact you if it becomes necessary.
- Talk positively about coming to school.

### **29. Links to other policies**

Single Equality Policy

Anti-bullying

Exclusion Policy

Behaviour and Attendance handbook

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Mobile Phone Policy

Code of Conduct



**Date: .....Sept 2023.....**

Signed:

Headteacher \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Date -----

**Date for renewal:            Sept 2024**