

Aquinas College Behaviour Policy

The College's behaviour policy aims to ensure that we are able to deliver on the College's Catholic mission and afford all students an exceptional learning experience.

We expect that all students accept the terms of our Studentship Agreement which they sign at the beginning of each academic year and that they also accept and respect the College's core values. These documents are focused on behaviours for learning and exist to create a positive and productive climate within classrooms and around the College site.

Our behaviour policy is written in conjunction with our safeguarding policy which can be found on the College's website.

Unacceptable Behaviour:

We deem any behaviour that fails to adhere to the studentship agreement or core values as unacceptable. Peer on peer abuse (including bullying and cyber bullying or any form of sexual harassment,) is not tolerated and is very clearly a breach of the studentship agreement and the college's core values. The College will use sanctions including:

10:10+ sessions – Students who have missed lessons without parental authorisation; students who have consistently failed to submit or complete work by agreed deadlines; students who have consistently handed in work that is clearly below the level they are capable of, may have a 'Thrive case' opened for them. This may require students to attend extra sessions within a subject area, or if the case is referred to a Senior Tutor, they may be required to attend 10:10+ sessions. These sessions are registered, and monitored and allow students the chance to catch up on, or improve upon, their assignments and studentship. Failure to attend a 10:10+ session will result in parental notification. If a student does not respond to the support offered or make sufficient progress within the agreed timeframe, they will receive a final warning and their place at college may be forfeit.

Final Written Warnings – Final written warnings will be issued to any student failing to make significant improvements to their studentship while having a Thrive case opened for them, or in cases of seriously unacceptable behaviour for instance cases of peer on peer abuse.

Meeting with parents/carers – When necessary and the issue requires it we will ask parents/carers to attend a meeting to discuss the most appropriate course of action and to agree a time frame and course of action to ensure the issue is resolved.

Suspension - We will seek to resolve behaviour issues as quickly as possible and with as little disruption to a student's education as possible. However, when there are serious issues with behaviour we may suspend a student pending a parent/carer meeting. Suspensions will occur when we believe that an issue needs addressing quickly and with parent/carer input before it is appropriate for a student to return to college. Students who are suspended will be expected to email their subject tutors to ensure they have access to the work they will miss when suspended. They may also need to attend referral sessions to catch up when they return to college. A final written warning will usually follow a suspension.

Exclusion – Excluding a student will be a last resort and will only occur when all of our other means of support and behaviour management have been exhausted, or in serious cases where behaviour presents a risk to the wellbeing and safety of other students and staff. Such cases would include:

Possession of an illegal substance, drugs or drug related paraphernalia.¹

Possession of a weapon.

Peer on peer abuse including cases of sexual harassment and cyberbullying.²

Persistent failure to adhere to social distancing measures during COVID 19.

Persistent failure to engage with the College's core studies programme - 10:10, General RE, Aspire.

¹ See College drug policy available on website

² See College safeguarding policy available on website.