

## 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. The College will use sanctions including:

**Removal from lessons** – Any student who arrives at a lesson without the correct equipment or having failed to complete work integral to that lesson maybe asked to leave and return with the correct equipment and required work. Similarly, any student who is disrupting the learning of other students may be asked to leave the lesson. Where necessary parents and Senior Tutors will be notified of these incidents.

**10:10+ sessions** – Students who have missed lessons without parental authorisation; students who have failed to submit or complete work by agreed deadlines; students who have 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. Persistent failure to attend will lead to a final written warning and the student may lose their place at college.

**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.<sup>1</sup>
- Possession of a weapon.
- Peer on peer abuse including cyber bullying.<sup>2</sup>
- Persistent failure to adhere to social distancing measures during COVID 19.

### **Peer on peer abuse:**

Any form of peer on peer abuse (including bullying and cyber bullying, or any form of sexual harassment,) is completely at odds with our college mission and we are committed to ensuring that procedures are in place to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse. All allegations of peer on peer abuse will be recorded, they will be investigated and dealt with in line with the behaviour policy and studentship agreement. Where necessary perpetrators may be suspended while an investigation is concluded and potentially be withdrawn from college.

Any student affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported via the college's pastoral systems which include access to the college counsellors. Peer on peer abuse is not tolerated and is very clearly a breach of the studentship agreement and the College's core values. Students can use the 'disclosure' option on their MyAquinas page which allows them to share concerns discreetly with Senior Tutors. Students are encouraged to use this function to share or disclose information when they feel unable to approach staff directly with a concern.

### **College ID:**

All students must wear their college lanyard and ID at all times. Students who do not have their ID must sign in at reception in order to be issued with a temporary ID. Students who forget their ID on more than 3 occasions will be sent home to collect it and parents/carers will be notified. Any lessons missed as a consequence of needing to return home to collect ID will count as unauthorised absences and any work missed will need to be caught up. [Link to Studentship Agreement, Safeguarding Policy, Drugs Policy](#)

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<sup>1</sup> See College drug policy available on website

<sup>2</sup> See College safeguarding policy available on website.