



Diocese of St. Albans



ST MARY'S  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

6 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you in December to explain the changes to the School's Behaviour for Learning policy. I want to update you on the impact of these changes and to further refine the policy to ensure that we see a continued improvement in behaviour for learning across the school.

Behaviour and morning punctuality across the school have improved. Uniform is better, students are more settled on the corridor and walking on the left more routinely, making it a safer and more pleasant place to be. Good behaviour can be seen everywhere in school and the vast majority of students are a credit to you and to us. Students are responding well and low level disruption teaching and learning has been reduced over the past 6 weeks.

Over the last few weeks I have reviewed the impact of these changes. I have spoken to students, in one to one and small group conversations; I have spoken to staff; I have also spoken to parents/carers by phone, email or in person. Despite the evident improvements, concerns about lower level disruption to teaching and learning, completion of homework and *lesson* punctuality continue to be raised.

We must not forget that our core purpose has to be learning; of course, this needs to be underpinned by our Christian ethos and, critically, effective safeguarding, but learning is our core purpose. Anything that prevents adults from teaching and students from learning is unacceptable. As a result of this feedback, the following refinements are being made to our Behaviour for Learning policy from next week (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March) and I ask that you allow time to talk to your children about these behaviour policy changes.

The updated behaviour management policy will be sent to you in due course, but a summary of the refinements are below:

- Teachers will be able to issue a same-day detention (until 4pm) for disruption to learning, defiance, not completing homework and poor punctuality to lessons. This will be served the same day if issued before 1pm, or the following day if after 1pm.
- Students who are removed from learning ('on-called') will either be placed in another teaching room (for a less serious issue) before returning to normal lessons for subsequent periods, or (for more serious issues) be isolated in a separate classroom to complete their work for the rest of the day until 4pm. *(Note: if a student is removed from learning after 1pm, and it is felt that the incident warrants isolation, they will be go into isolation from 8:30am until 4pm on the following day).*
- Parents/carers will be notified by text/email of the fact that their child will be in learning until 4pm; parents/carers will be expected to log on to the SLG portal for the reason for the withdrawal, rather than calling the school.
- Staff who issue the detention, or make the on-call request, will be expected to have a conversation with the student, explain what behaviour initiated the on-call and prepare the student to get back in learning the next lesson.

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Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354  
e: [admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk) w: [www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

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We will still be rewarding the many students who are getting it right so often; I thank them and thank you for your support.

I believe that all students will benefit from these changes and make no apologies for the increasing expectations across the school. I am looking forward to seeing further improvements in standards of behaviour for learning, and rewarding more students for 'getting it right' more often.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms  
Head Teacher

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