

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
PUPIL CODE OF CONDUCT

Aim

1. The aim of this Code of Conduct is to outline the high standards of pupil behaviour expected at Christ's Hospital to ensure that all members of the School community live and work together in a safe, respectful, calm and friendly environment.

Introduction

2. You are at school to prepare for a happy and successful life. As such, you are expected to:
 - learn to live harmoniously with other people;
 - develop the qualities of responsibility and reliability;
 - establish effective working habits;
 - build useful skills and knowledge.
3. A boarding community relies on the positive contributions of its members to create a warm and productive culture. This Code of Conduct provides guidance on how to be an effective member of the School community.
4. Our many visitors often comment favourably on the impressive conduct, appearance and helpfulness of all they meet at Christ's Hospital. Be proud of the School and of your part in it.

Equity, diversity, inclusion and respect

5. A community such as ours only works happily if everyone behaves with respect and consideration both for the individuality of others and for the shared interests of the whole community. People are different from one another and should be allowed to be so, without fear of judgement or unkindness.
6. There will be many occasions when our individual impulses and wishes have to be seen as less important than the interests of the community.
7. Instructions from an adult or School Monitor, or from a Deputy Grecian on duty in the boarding house, must be followed without delay or discussion and with good grace. If you believe there is something wrong in what you are told to do, take it up later with the person concerned, your houseparent, tutor or through the complaints procedure.

Health, safety and responsibility

8. We must each take personal responsibility for our own physical and mental health.
9. No personal action must be allowed to bring danger, fear or unhappiness into the lives of others. Social life must be kept positive, giving due regard to the law and to the safety, health and wellbeing of others. Use of social media must be appropriate and kind.
10. Everyone must respect the personal property and personal space of others. It is unacceptable to take, damage or interfere with another person's belongings or private space, for any reason.

11. Dangerous objects that could compromise the safety of others must not be brought into School. This includes knives or any other kind of weapon; matches or lighters; games or equipment that are likely to cause damage, such as catapults; tobacco or vaping equipment, alcohol or drugs.
12. Deputy Grecian and Grecian pupils who have bicycles in School must maintain them and ride them safely, in accordance with the School's Bicycle Policy.

Additional guidance on safety and kindness

13. Health, safety and behaviour issues are covered in more detail in other documents, such as the School's policies on alcohol, anti-smoking, anti-Drugs and anti-bullying and the ICT Code of Conduct for Pupils, which can all be found on the School website. Further detailed guidance on a wide range of matters is posted in boarding houses and on the School intranet. It is neither possible nor desirable to cover every possible conduct requirement in a comprehensive rulebook and it is no defence to say that because something has not been ruled out, it must therefore be acceptable.
14. If something is sensible and courteous, then it is unlikely to be wrong; behaviour which is illegal, dangerous, inconsiderate or bad mannered is invariably wrong.

Classroom behaviour, school work and broader commitments

15. All pupils are expected to take their learning seriously, and to have respect for others' desire to learn. Encourage and support one another's contributions and avoid doing anything that disrupts the classroom. Arrive at lessons promptly, bringing all necessary materials. Follow teachers' instructions and complete all tasks to the best of your ability. Ask questions and seek help when you need it.
16. Commitments to teams, music lessons and practices, and to all School activities such as plays, CCF, actives and clubs must be honoured as full parts of the School curriculum.

Chapel

17. Our beautiful chapel is a peaceful and positive place that is available to all. Respect the feelings of others and help to preserve our chapel's special atmosphere, which benefits the whole community.

Dining Hall

18. Dining Hall is an important social space, especially at tea and Sunday brunch, where everyone should feel comfortable and relaxed. When meeting friends to eat and talk together, it is important to be mindful of others. Walk calmly; store belongings in the racks provided, not on the floor; queue politely; sit down to eat, using table space sensibly. Choose your meals thoughtfully to avoid wasting food and take care to clear away according to the guidance provided in the servery area.

Hertford Centre

19. The Hertford Centre's shop and café area are available to pupils and also to staff, parents and other visitors to the School. Show consideration for others when queuing or meeting with friends. Keep noise to reasonable level, use furniture appropriately and clear away your litter.

Outside areas and school property

20. Our campus is a beautiful and impressive place, with many areas to enjoy, and staff work hard to maintain it. Make the most of areas such as the Wellbeing Garden, and respect the space by disposing of litter carefully. Keep off the Avenue lawns and Garden Quad in wet weather, to preserve the grass and avoid tracking mud into the buildings. Take care not to cause damage to the natural environment, or to buildings, fixtures or furniture, indoors or out.
21. Take particular care to use appropriate language in the public and outdoor areas of the School. Use of swear words makes a poor impression on visitors and can be intimidating as well as offensive.

Dress and appearance

22. The Housey uniform is one of our most cherished traditions. Wherever and whenever it is worn, it must be worn with pride and with care for its neatness and cleanliness. Pupils may wear their own clothes as and when the regulations posted in your boarding house allow.
23. A separate Pupils' Dress Code, available on the School website and intranet, gives full details. If unsure, seek guidance from your houseparent.

School and home communications

24. Consideration for those who look after you at home and at School must be paramount in all arrangements made for travelling, leave weekends and visits. Please play your part in ensuring good communication and understanding between home and the School.

Personal relationships: code of conduct

25. Sound relationships lie at the heart of life at Christ's Hospital and every member of our School community has a responsibility to ensure that their dealings with others are amicable and appropriate.
26. Affectionate gestures between friends, such as hugging or linking arms, are good for everyone's wellbeing, but public displays of intimacy, particularly those which might make onlookers feel uncomfortable, are not appropriate at School.
27. Similarly, private acts of physical intimacy or of a sexual nature have no place at School. Pupils found in a compromising situation where there is a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate physical or sexual conduct (e.g. in a locked room or in a partial state of undress) are liable to be permanently excluded from CH.
28. In some cases, particularly if one or more of the pupils involved is under-age, Children's Services and possibly the police will be informed.

Code of conduct for all sports

29. Players should always:
 - treat opponents, supporters, coaching staff and others with courtesy and consideration, accepting the decision of match officials without protest and meeting both victory and defeat with grace;

- encourage rather than criticise team mates;
- treat equipment and facilities, including pitch surfaces, with care, showing respect for the work that goes into maintaining them;
- set a positive example for others, by wearing smart and appropriate kit and refraining from using foul or abusive language,
- make every effort to be available, know when fixtures and other commitments are in advance and advise your coach in plenty of time of any unavailability due to injury, illness or other circumstance;
- train and play with maximum effort, adhering to the laws of the game and to the spirit of fair play.

30. All supporters, adults and pupils, should:

- not enter the field of play before, during or after the game;
- positively applaud their team and their opponents, refraining from jeering, negative comments, hostile gestures, aggressive chanting or inappropriate language.

31. We expect the same standards of behaviour in sport that we do in the classroom. Pupils who transgress can expect to be sent from the field of play and/or be suspended from future matches.

School trips and off-campus activities

32. Sensible, courteous and considerate conduct is essential during School trips, both to represent the School in a positive way and to avoid inconveniencing members of the public, or spoiling their experiences of theatres, museums, etc.

33. Pupils must follow the specific guidance provided by staff on appropriate conduct in various venues and locations.

34. Positive behaviour during off-campus activities, such as Community Action, is of particular importance. Pupils must honour commitments to activities involving partnerships with other organisations. It is important to maintain the trust that others have placed in us.

Public transport and visits to Horsham

35. Pupils must behave sensibly and courteously when travelling to School, or into Horsham, on public transport, showing consideration for other passengers. Keep noise to a reasonable level, use polite and appropriate language and dispose of litter responsibly.

36. Fare evasion and shoplifting are against the law and damage the local community's trust in our School.

What pupils should do if they are concerned about others' conduct

37. If a pupil is concerned that the behaviour of other pupils is harming, or placing at risk, the safety, wellbeing, happiness or learning of others, or themselves, they should share their concerns with their house parent, tutor, head of year, chaplaincy, or any member of the Child Protection & Safeguarding Team, by email or in person. It is the School's first priority to safeguard all its pupils.

Author: RMJB

Date of last review: August 2020

Date of next review: August 2021