

**CHRIST'S HOSPITAL**  
**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Aim**

1. The aim of this Code of Conduct is to outline the high standards of student 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. Christ's Hospital's community values, chosen by the students, are **kindness, inclusion, responsibility, perseverance and individuality**. Students must do their best to adhere to these values throughout their time at the school.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 community**

6. 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, including in respect of their protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and should be allowed to be so, without fear of judgement, unkindness or discrimination. Protected characteristics include race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief and disability. Unkind words or behaviour in relation to another person's protected characteristics are forms of bullying. Further details are provided in the school's Student Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Student Anti-Bullying policies.
7. There will be many occasions when our individual impulses and wishes have to be seen as less important than the interests of the community.
8. 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 inform your parent or guardian, who may wish to raise the issue under the Complaints Policy and Procedure.

### **Health, safety and responsibility**

9. Every member of the school community should take personal responsibility for their own and others' physical and mental health by avoiding behaviours that are harmful and by making a commitment never to bully others. Any kind of 'initiation' or 'hazing' is a form of bullying and is unacceptable. For a full understanding of behaviour that constitutes bullying, refer to the Student Anti-Bullying Policy.
10. No personal action must be allowed to bring danger, fear or unhappiness into the lives of others. Social life must be kept positive and respectful, giving due regard to the law, to the essential principle of consent, and to the safety, health, privacy and wellbeing of others. Any use of social media must be appropriate and kind. Second and Third Form students are not allowed to use social media to communicate with other students, other than immediate family members, whilst at school.
11. Christ's Hospital takes a "zero tolerance" approach to any form of sexual harassment, either in-person or online, including "low-level" harassment such as catcalling, sexual comments and sexualised name-calling or 'jokes'. This means that any reported instances of harassment will be taken seriously by staff and acted upon. For a full understanding of behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, refer to the school's Student Anti-Bullying Policy and its Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
12. 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, including their bed, wardrobe and desk for any reason, and such behaviour can never be passed off as a "joke".
13. Personal data must equally be respected. Photographs of others must not be taken, stored, sent, shared or duplicated without consent.
14. 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.
15. Deputy Grecian and Grecian students who have bicycles in school must maintain them and ride them safely, in accordance with the school's Bicycle Policy. Students are not allowed skateboards, roller-skates, rollerblades or scooters at school.

### **Staying within school bounds**

16. During termtime, students must stay within school bounds (the "ring fence") at all times, other than when escorted by staff during a supervised activity or, for senior students, using their permitted Horsham Pass, or travelling home or elsewhere with appropriate permissions.
17. During dark hours, students must observe "dark bounds". These are published in a map displayed in houses.
18. For reasons of fire safety, safeguarding, privacy and the protection of personal property, students are not allowed to visit the bedroom corridors of any other boarding house, including the other side of their Avenue house block.

## **COVID safety**

19. Students must adhere to all COVID safety measures that are in place at any given time. These may include restrictions on the use of particular indoor and outdoor spaces, specific social distancing measures in a range of settings such as Dining Hall, classrooms and boarding houses, adherence to 'bubble groups' and seating plans, use of one-way systems, use of face-coverings, requirements to sanitize hands, and specific guidance covering use of equipment in classrooms and sporting activities. This list is not exhaustive.

## **Additional guidance on safety and kindness**

20. Health, safety and behaviour issues are covered in more detail in other documents, such as the school's policies on alcohol, anti-smoking and anti-vaping, anti-drugs and anti-bullying and the ICT Code of Conduct for Students, 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.
21. 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, schoolwork and broader commitments**

22. All students 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 and junior prep 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.
23. Commitments to teams, music lessons and practices, and to all school activities such as Chapel services, assemblies, play rehearsals, ensembles, CCF, actives and clubs must be honoured as full parts of the school curriculum.

## **Chapel**

24. 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**

25. 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**

26. The Hertford Centre's shop and café area are available to students 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**

27. Our site 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. Chewing gum, when disposed of carelessly, leaves unsightly marks and is difficult to remove and is therefore not allowed at school.
28. For safety reasons, students must on no account climb on any trees, buildings, scaffolding or other structures.
29. 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**

30. 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. Students may wear their own clothes as and when the regulations posted in your boarding house allow.
31. A separate Students' Dress Code, available on the school website and intranet, gives full details. If unsure, seek guidance from your houseparent.

### **School and home communications**

32. 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**

33. Sound relationships lie at the heart of life at Christ's Hospital and every member of our community has a responsibility to ensure that their dealings with others are amicable and appropriate.
34. Any act of sexual harassment, whether in person or online, is unacceptable. Sexual harassment can include sexual comments such as remarks about personal appearance, "cat-calling," sexual stories, "jokes" or rumours; unwanted physical behaviour such as brushing against someone; "up-skirting"; displaying or sending pictures or photos of a sexual nature; non-consensual sharing of sexual images or videos; coercion or threats. Sexual harassment will be dealt with as a safeguarding concern and also as a disciplinary matter.
35. 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.

36. Similarly, private acts of physical intimacy or of a sexual nature have no place at school. Students 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.
37. In some cases, particularly if one or more of the students involved is under-age, Local Authority Children's Social Care and possibly the police will be informed.

### **Code of conduct for all sports**

38. 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 teammates;
  - 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.
39. All supporters, adults and students, 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.
40. We expect the same standards of behaviour in sport as we do in the classroom. Students 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**

41. 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, cinemas, museums, etc.
42. Students must follow the specific guidance provided by staff on appropriate conduct in various venues and locations.
43. Positive behaviour during off-campus activities, such as Community Action, is of particular importance. Students 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**

44. Students 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.

45. Fare evasion and shoplifting are against the law and damage the local community's trust in our school. Repeated instances of fare evasion by groups of senior students visiting Horsham on their Horsham passes might, if it proved impossible to identify the culprits, result in the privilege of Horsham visits being suspended for a period of time for all students.

#### **What students should do if they are concerned about others' conduct**

46. If a student is concerned that the behaviour of other students 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 and Safeguarding Team, in person or by email, or use the "Student feedback" icon on the student desktop and VLE. It is the school's first priority to safeguard all its students.

#### **Vigilantism**

47. On no account should students who believe another student has committed a misdemeanour take matters into their own hands. Physical or verbal attacks, or denigration of another student, in person or online, on the grounds that they have done something wrong, are forms of bullying, and will be sanctioned accordingly. Students should report concerns about the behaviour of other students to staff, and have respect for due process, including school-based investigations and sanctions and referrals to outside agencies, whilst also respecting the confidentiality requirements of such processes.

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Date of last review: September 2023

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