



Policy: Climate for Learning Policy	Last reviewed: Summer 2016
To be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee every 4 years.	A2

Climate for Learning Policy

At Durham Sixth Form Centre we have high expectations of all of our students to ensure that they are able to maximise their full learning potential and be prepared for those all-important next steps in life, whether that is higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. We are fully committed to supporting the personal and educational needs of all students by providing the highest level of academic and pastoral support.

Durham Sixth Form Centre aims to:

- provide high quality transition to prepare students for the demands of further education
- offer a wide range of courses and subjects but it must be noted that this will depend upon demand, availability of resources and teaching staff
- provide good quality teaching, resources and facilities to support students in maximising their potential
- monitor the progress of students regularly and provide clear reports to parents throughout the academic year
- praise students regularly for good attendance, consistent effort, quality work and recognising when they go above and beyond
- report matters of concern to both the student and their parents in order to resolve any issues quickly
- offer a safe and tolerant environment for students to learn in which discrimination and bullying of any kind will not be accepted
- offer a balanced and holistic curriculum of academic, personal and social education, including information relating to careers advice and guidance, health and well-being, sexual health
- support students' academic and personal welfare
- provide access to additional support services if appropriate
- monitor student attendance and academic progress closely
- give students the opportunity to exercise responsibility and leadership
- provide a range of recreational and extra-curricular activities in which students can engage
- provide appropriate records about students to future employers and higher educational establishments.

At enrolment we share these aims with students and as part of our Student Contract they agree to:

- attend all timetabled commitments including registration, subject lessons and CEIAG sessions
- follow the published protocols for absence
- maintain a good level of attendance (95%+) and punctuality at lessons
- complete all homework and coursework by the appropriate deadlines and to the best of their ability, ensuring it is their own work
- work independently and conscientiously throughout the course to prepare for examinations
- actively seek help and guidance from teaching staff in the pursuit of their studies
- maintain appropriate standards of behaviour, ensuring respect is shown to staff, other students, buildings and facilities
- dress appropriately for an educational setting
- accept that this is a non-smoking site and to comply with this requirement
- accept that the use of or being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is strictly prohibited
- accept financial responsibility for any property committed to the students' care or to ensure its return in good condition at the end of the course
- attend all examinations and do so in compliance with exam board regulations

- accept financial responsibility for non-attendance at examinations
- take advantage of opportunities provided by Durham Sixth Form Centre.

On signing this agreement both parents and students confirm their acceptance of the expectations at Durham Sixth Form Centre and are made aware that failure to comply with these expectations will result in intervention and in very rare cases a student may even be asked to leave. Such interventions are outlined below in our staged sanction system.

Stage	Who	What
1	Subject Teacher	Discuss concerns with the student, set targets and monitor.
2	Subject Teacher	If the issue persists, raise concerns with HoD or relevant line manager.
3	HoD/LLC	Discuss concerns with the student and take appropriate action. This list is not exhaustive but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -liaison with the relevant pastoral leader (LLP) -organising subject specific study support/mentoring -interviewing the student, setting targets and monitoring -liaising with the Student Support Team if appropriate -placing on subject report -contacting parents/guardians via phone call or letter (please check with LLP in advance)
4	LLP	Maintain an overview of academic/attendance concerns and take appropriate action. This list is not exhaustive but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -conducting an interview with the student -issuing verbal warning(s) -monitoring progress with subject teachers -organising support; mentoring; counselling; CAMHS referrals if appropriate -placing on LLP report (academic or attendance) -contacting parents/guardians via phone call or letter -inviting parents into school for a meeting -liaising with relevant member of the SLT if the issue persists
5	AHT/DHT	Investigate the concerns and take appropriate action. This list is not exhaustive but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -inviting parents into school for a formal meeting -conducting an interview with the student -issuing a formal verbal or written warning (recorded delivery for posted items) -drawing up an action plan with agreed deadlines -monitoring progress with subject teachers & Pastoral Leader -removing the student from a course

Stage 6 - Headteacher Sanctions

If a student does not make sufficient improvement following the significant level of intervention as outlined above in our agreed staged sanction system, the Headteacher reserves the right to withdraw their place of study at any point at Durham Sixth Form Centre.

The Headteacher also reserves the right to withdraw a students' place of study at Durham Sixth Form Centre if there has been an incident of gross misconduct. Gross misconduct is normally determined by the severity of the incident or where, despite previous warnings, unacceptable behaviour has been repeated.

In such instances a student may be suspended whilst an investigation takes place into an incident or situation in which they may have been involved. Such a suspension does not attach blame to the student concerned; it does, however, mean that the investigation can be undertaken in a fairer, more effective manner for all concerned, including the student themselves.

Once a decision has been taken to remove a students' place of study at Durham Sixth Form Centre the Headteacher will confirm the decision in a formal written letter to parents. The procedure for appeal against the decision will be clearly explained in the letter.

Appeals

Both students and parents have the right to appeal the decision taken by the Headteacher to withdraw the place of study at Durham Sixth Form Centre. This can be done in writing, addressed to the Chair of Governors at the school address. A sub-committee of the Governing Body will convene a meeting within a maximum of 15 working days to consider the decision taken by the Headteacher. Parents, students and the Headteacher are invited to this meeting to make appropriate representations. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final.