

What to do... Positive Behaviour at Dixons Unity Academy (December 2023 Update)

This document is written in conjunction with the Dixons Academies Trust Positive Behaviour Policy, Dixons Academies Trust Anti-Bullying Policy, Dixons Academies Trust Child Protection Policy, and Dixons Academies Trust Exclusion Policy, which are available on the Trust website: www.dixonsat.com/about/policies.

Changes made in December 2023 are updated throughout the document in red text.

Academy SLT behaviour leads:

- Pip Parmar – Vice Principal (Behaviour and Attitudes)
- Jamie McCormack – Assistant Vice Principal (Behaviour and Attitudes – KS3 and Alternate Provision)
- James Higgins – Assistant Vice Principal (Behaviour and Attitudes – KS4 and Safeguarding)

Principles

Dixons Unity is committed to ensuring that our students master the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve our academy sentence and mission. We are committed to ensuring that all students are successful at university, or a real alternative and live a happy and purposeful life. We believe that anyone who is successful (in the broadest sense of the word) must develop self-discipline and be given autonomy to make the right choices.

The 'Dixons Unity Learning Habits' provide a framework to ensure our key drivers (Mastery, Autonomy and Purpose) and core values (Integrity, Resilience and Respect) are embedded within our daily practice and routines.

From the first day at Dixons Unity, children are expected to pick up and keep our six learning habits which we believe every student can demonstrate. In doing so, each student will thrive at our school and will have the skills they need to be successful at university and in the professional world of work.

We have high expectations. Whilst sometimes this may be challenging, we expect our students to live by our learning habits 100% of the time. If they do this, their resilience will be recognised. However, if any of the Learning Habits are not met, a same-day correction will be issued. It is vital that this is served on the same day so that the student is given the opportunity to reflect on his / her mistake. This allows the student to take the necessary next steps to improve on the following day.

Aims

- To have the highest expectations of student behaviour to maximise their opportunity to achieve.
- To ensure all students develop the good learning habits that they need to be successful in school and life.
- To realise and celebrate the potential of all students through promoting independence and self-discipline.
- To create an environment in which students are enabled to become mature, self-disciplined, industrious and able to accept responsibility for their own actions.
- To form an active partnership with families to encourage excellent behaviour and to establish strong patterns of behaviour.

These aims are supported by weekly staff practice sessions focusing on core routines and developing appropriate strategies for managing behaviour; close parental and community links; student organisation which takes account of ethnic and gender balance; the boosting of students' self-esteem through positive reinforcement and enrichment; and academy community events aimed at pulling together the different life experiences of groups within the community.

Recognition

We want students to be motivated by the intrinsic value of achievement; however, we are committed to acknowledging students for developing good learning habits.

Student Appreciations

Each week, every member of the academy staff gives a student appreciation for demonstrating our values, strong progress or for displaying a real commitment to the academy or the local community. Appreciations are shared during morning meeting each week and communicated to families weekly via the MCAS App.

Recognition Phone Calls

Each week, every member of the academy staff will make at least one recognition call home to recognise our students for demonstrating our values.

Principal's Breakfast

Every week students who have gone 'above and beyond' are nominated by staff to have breakfast with the Principal.



Recognition Events

Throughout the year, students who have demonstrated excellent learning habits are acknowledged with an invitation to a special event. The Senior Leadership Team decides which students attend based on a range of factors including behaviour and attendance.

Recognition Points

Each lesson, staff are required to award three recognition points based on our values. Bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges will be awarded to students who pass each threshold. Students who are awarded bronze, silver and gold badges will be placed into regular raffles with recognition items on offer. Platinum students will be invited to regular 'Platinum Parties' to recognise their achievements. Students who are awarded with recognition badges will also be invited to recognition events. Recognition points are visible to parents on the MCAS app. Recognition points will also contribute to our form time competitions. Recognition points will be reset each cycle therefore there will be opportunities to receive up to three badges per year.

Recognition Assembly

Each term, we host a Recognition Assembly with our students. Students are recognised for demonstrating our values within subjects, attendance, behaviour, and progress. In addition, at the end of each cycle we hold a recognition event where families and students are invited to celebrate achievements from the previous cycle.

Learning Habits

Learning Habit 1: Homework and Deadlines

Completing work outside of lessons is important to consolidate and master learning. It helps students to develop their organisational skills and it shows that they are hard working. Homework deadlines must be met with work that is done to the best of their ability.

Homework and Deadlines at Dixons Unity means:

- Returning all letters and reply slips within 48 hours.
- Completing all homework on time. Homework will be set regularly by subject teachers.

Learning Habit 2: On Task

Students who wish to succeed are always on-task in every lesson and behave in a purposeful manner outside of lessons. Being on task means that other students can learn without disruption and allows the teacher to teach what they have planned.

Being on task at Dixons Unity means:

- Following the learning mode of the classroom or learning space.
- Following instructions first time, every time.
- Completing all work and asking for help when needed.
- Transitioning quickly and quietly between lessons.
- Falling silent when staff raise their hands.

The Learning Modes referred to above are as follows:

- Respectful whole class – in silence tracking (looking at) the teacher.
- Independent silent study – in silence working on your own,
- Quiet partners – using two-foot voices to work with the person next to you.
- Polite table groups – collaborating as a group (this is most often used in practical subjects).

Learning Habit 3: Equipment

We wish to develop our students' organisational skills for success in future life. For any important role in life, we need the right equipment and students need to make sure they provide it. Stationery is on sale every morning before Morning Meeting. Students will not be required to bring cash, instead a note will be made of the items taken and this will be added to the ParentPay account. If a student arrives at Morning Meeting without their equipment it will be provided, and the cost added to the ParentPay account.

Being fully equipped at Dixons Unity means bringing:

- 2 x black pens
- 2 x green pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Black whiteboard pen
- Highlighter
- Reading book
- Student planner
- Pencil Case
- Academy bag (graffiti free)



Learning Habit 4: Punctuality

Punctuality at Dixons Unity means:

- Arriving to school by 7.56am and being in Morning Meeting by 8.00am.
- Taking no longer than 4 minutes to transition between lessons. Music will play during transition to help students keep time.
- Being on time to line up after break and lunch.

Learning Habit 5: Uniform

Uniform shows pride in our appearance and pride in being a member of the Dixons Unity community. If a child requires a uniform adjustment due to medical reasons, then evidence must be provided. **If students breach any part of our uniform code, they will either be given temporary uniform to wear or will be sat in Reset until their uniform is perfect.** If a student borrows uniform, it must be returned at the end of the school day. If an item is not returned a reminder will be sent to the family. If following the reminder, the item is still not returned then the cost of the item will be charged to the ParentPay account.

Perfect uniform at Dixons Unity means:

- Black trousers (not jeans, leggings or tracksuit bottoms).
- White buttoned shirt.
- Grey blazer and / or jumper (KS3) / blue blazer and / or jumper (KS4).
- Black polishable shoes or boots (not trainers or pumps).
- No jewellery except a plain watch (smart watches are not allowed). A Sikh Kara may also be worn.
- No unnatural hair colours. No false nails. No false eyelashes.
- Students can opt to wear plain black salwar kameez or tunic with a white blouse / shirt. with the academy blazer over the top.
- Hijabs, scarves, turbans, crowns, and top knots, worn for religious reasons, must be plain black and well secured.
- Academy bag in the correct colour for their year group (graffiti free) – provided by Dixons Unity in the first instance.

PE kit at Dixons Unity is as follows:

- Academy navy polo shirt.
- Navy shorts, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings (branded or unbranded).
- Trainers (indoor and outdoor).
- Optional items: Academy navy quarter zip top

If jewellery is seen in the building it will be confiscated, placed in an envelope, and taken to Reception to be placed in the safe for an adult family member to collect. The academy accepts no responsibility for items that are lost or damaged following confiscation.

Coats must be removed before entering the academy. Coats are not allowed to be worn inside the building. They will be confiscated and placed in student reception until the end of the day if they are worn.

Learning Habit 6: Positive Response

We know that students who wish to succeed do not answer back and trust that teachers' instructions are to help them be successful. If an adult tells a student to do something, we expect it to be done straight away. Adult's decisions should not be questioned.

Positive Response at Dixons Unity means:

- Treating other students and staff with respect.
- Not using offensive or poor language around the building.
- Accepting responsibility when a mistake is made. Adults' decisions should be respected.

Internal Truancy

- Students should not be out of lesson for any reason unless they have a note written in their planner. **Students are classed as truanting 10 minutes after the lesson has begun.**
- Any student found to be out of lesson without a note will be taken to reset until 4pm (if found truanting before 12.20pm) or until 3.10pm then until 12.20 the following day (if found truanting after 12.20pm).



Reasonable Adjustments

A very small minority of our students may require reasonable adjustments to help them meet our learning habits and expectations. These will be implemented on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the SENDCo and family and will be reviewed regularly. We do not lower our expectations for students, instead we support them to meet the high expectations that they deserve.

Contraband Items

In addition to the prohibited items stated in the government guidance for searching and screening (found [here](#)) there are other items not permitted in the academy such as vapes, lighters, smoking paraphernalia, medication (prescribed or otherwise), chewing gum, sweets and energy / fizzy drinks. If these items are found in a student's possession, they will be confiscated and disposed of. Only water is allowed during lesson time.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in the academy. If parents want their child to bring a phone to school for safety, they must be switched off before students enter the Piazza gates and placed into their academy bag. If a member of staff sees a mobile phone, it will be confiscated, a correction issued, and will be kept until a parent / carer collects it.

Consequences

We have high expectations of all our students and are committed to creating a safe environment. When a student fails to meet our learning habits, it is important that this be corrected so as not to affect other students / staff. This *may* involve a same day correction or a more severe consequence. *Possible* sanctions are outlined below. Professional judgement is always used on a case-by-case basis.

In-Class Consequences

- Verbal Warning
- Planner Warning
- Correction
- Moved Room

There are occasions when student behaviour dictates that some steps will be skipped, for example using bad language in a lesson.

Corrections

- If students fail to meet a learning habit, they will be issued with a 30-minute same day correction (unless the correction is given to the student after 12.20pm, in which case it will be set for the following day).
- **A student can sit up to 2 x 30-minute corrections that have accumulated in one day meaning they will stay for a maximum of 60-minutes after the end of school.**
- If a student fails to attend a 30-minute correction, they will be issued with a 60-minute correction the following day.
- If a student fails to attend a 60-minute correction, **they will be placed in to reset from 11.30am until 4.10pm the following day.**
- All students, without exception, sit corrections. Where students have an appointment that cannot be rearranged, they should contact the school via telephone and the correction will be re-set for the following day.

Reset

The concept of Reset has been devised to signal to students that a member of staff has a serious concern about a student's behaviour and to give students an opportunity to reflect and self-regulate before an incident escalates into something more serious.

The student will spend the time in Reset completing revision work and a behaviour reflection document. The length of time in Reset will be determined by a member of the senior leadership team and related to the severity of the incident. Students who refuse or do not meet expectations in Reset could be suspended and required to complete at least one full day in Reset when they return. We do not take suspensions lightly. They are reserved for serious infringements of the behaviour policy. Staff at Dixons Unity will not hold grudges and students will be welcomed positively back into the learning environment following time in Reset or a suspension.

- **A student will sit Reset between 8.00am and 4.10pm**

Other Potential Consequences

There are times when other consequences are used such as the below. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list.

- Limiting student access to enrichment.
- Removal of IT rights e.g., email and internet academy access.
- Correction conversations for up to 10 minutes after school without informing parents.
- Removal of unstructured time e.g., break time.
- Directing the student offsite **including to an alternate provision or another academy,**



Where student behaviour is persistent, we will look to work with families and the student to put support in place. If poor behaviour persists families may be issued with formal warning letters.

Serious incident protocol

When a serious incident has occurred at the academy, a full investigation will be undertaken. This will involve taking statements from students and staff where needed. Parents will always be informed when we are dealing with a serious incident. At times, we may need to isolate a student during an investigation. When we have completed our investigation parents will be contacted to discuss the incident and possible ways of resolving the situation.

Behaviour Tariff

Table of <i>Possible</i> Consequences for Different Behaviours	Teacher		HOY / SLT	Vice Principal	Principal	
	In Class Warnings	Correction / Moved Room	Reset	Placement	Suspension	Permanent Exclusion
Off task behaviour in lessons	✓	✓				
Answering back to staff	✓	✓				
Chewing gum	✓	✓				
Dishonest to staff member	✓	✓				
Misbehaving in correction		✓	✓			
Incorrect uniform (after 8am)		✓	✓			
Late to lessons		✓				
Late to line-up		✓				
Late to school		✓				
Missing equipment (after 8am)		✓				
Missed homework / deadline		✓				
Mobile phone seen		✓	✓			
Off task in large group setting		✓	✓			
Off task in line up		✓	✓			
Other non-permitted items		✓	✓			
Overheard swearing		✓				
Poor quality homework		✓				



Table of <i>Possible</i> Consequences for Different Behaviours	Teacher		HOY / SLT	Vice Principal	Principal	
	In Class Warnings	Correction / Moved Room	Reset	Placement	Suspension	Permanent Exclusion
Argumentative toward a student		✓	✓			
Swearing at a student		✓	✓			
Absconding school			✓	✓	✓	
Leaving a lesson			✓			
Missing a correction		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Refusal to follow instructions / Defiance		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Three moved rooms in a day			✓	✓	✓	
Five moved rooms across three days in a week			✓	✓	✓	
Truancy from a lesson(s)			✓	✓	✓	
Persistent off task behaviour			✓	✓	✓	✓
Vandalism of school property		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vaping / Smoking			✓	✓	✓	
Derogatory / Disrespectful Responses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fighting			✓	✓	✓	
Racist comments or behaviour			✓	✓	✓	
Swearing at member of staff			✓	✓	✓	
Trans / homophobic comments / behaviour			✓	✓	✓	
Disablist / ablist comments / behaviour			✓	✓	✓	
Throwing water			✓			
Dangerous behaviour		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Online abuse / bullying		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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	In Class Warnings	Correction / Moved Room	Reset	Placement	Suspension	Permanent Exclusion
Prolonged bullying of student			✓	✓	✓	✓
Theft of property			✓	✓	✓	✓
Sexual / homophobic / racist harassment			✓	✓	✓	✓
Verbally threatening a member of staff			✓	✓	✓	✓
Bringing a dangerous weapon into the academy					✓	✓
Bringing drugs into the academy					✓	✓
Dealing drugs in the academy					✓	✓
Physical violence toward staff					✓	✓
Using implement to harm another person					✓	✓
Bringing fireworks into school					✓	✓

Behaviour Escalations

Incident	Action	Cumulative behaviour	Next Steps
3 x Moved Rooms	Reset – 1 day	3 x occurrences in a term	1-day external placement & family meeting
5 x Moved Rooms over three days in a week	Reset – 1 day	3 x occurrences in a term	1-day external placement & family meeting
Missed 60-minute Correction	Reset – P4 – 4pm	3 x occurrences in a term	1-day external placement & family meeting
3 x Reset	1-day external placement & family meeting	3 x occurrences in a term	2-day external placement & family meeting
3 x Suspensions	3-day external placement & family meeting	10 days in two (half) terms	Off-site direction

