LAGAN COLLEGE BELFAST

Positive Behaviour Policy

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Introduction

The aim of this policy is to set out clearly a statement of the College's practices that contribute to the development and maintenance of good behaviour inside and outside the classroom.
The overarching basis for what we aim to achieve in this area is in line with the well-established ethos of the College which is summarized in the statements below.

'To educate to the highest standards Catholics, Protestants and others of goodwill, of all abilities, together.'

Our Christian ethos is expressed in the commitment to be one community who learns and worships together based on the principles of equality, respect, reconciliation and service to others.
In order to further these aims the College recognises that the whole school staff, student, body, parents and wider community must work together consistently. Mutual support, good communication is also essential in this regard.

All members of the school community are expected to work together in order to create and maintain an atmosphere that is calm and safe and which enables teachers to teach and students to learn.

This policy links with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by taking into consideration the below articles of the UNCRC.

Article 28: All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.

Expectations
It is important that all members of the school community are clear about and agree on what is expected of them in the area of positive behaviour.

To this end the school community was consulted upon what they should expect from each other in this area.

Student Expectations
The standards expected from are students with regard to their positive behaviour are set out below in two forms.

Firstly, in summary form for easy access. These expectations are contained in the Student Learning Planner and are displayed around the school, including in each classroom. They are written in positive, accessible language.

Secondly, in more detailed form, also included in the Student Learning Planner. This form includes a clear description of the types of behaviour which could put the student's place in the College at risk.

These expectations are taught consistently to the students, in form class and through assemblies. They are referred to specifically as the agreed standards by staff inside and outside class. Agreed action is taken when the standards are not met.

These expectations are clearly communicated and agreed with parents upon their child's entry into the College and on an annual basis thereafter. Students and parents are requested to sign the appropriate section in the Student Learning Planner.

Lagan College Student Expectations 2025 - 2026

In Lagan College our relationships are based on respect, service, equality and reconciliation.

- We show respect for all.
- We are helpful to all.
- We treat all others as we would like to be treated ourselves.
- We try to put things right when they go wrong.

Lagan College Expectations

- We use good manners and are respectful when we speak to each other, face to face, on-line or by phone.
- We always act in a way that considers the feelings and safety of others.
- We are good ambassadors for Lagan College whilst using any form of social media
- We wear our uniform correctly and with pride.
- We are on time for school and for every lesson.
- We walk calmly around the school keeping to the left.
- We are good ambassadors for Lagan College whilst traveling to and from school.
- We come to school with the correct books and equipment.
- We complete and hand in homeworks on time.

- We listen carefully when others are speaking.
- We always work to the best of our ability and with enthusiasm.
- We take pride in our school and help to keep it clean and safe.

Student Expectations 2025 - 2026

This section contains details of Lagan College's positive standards. They are actively taught to the students in class and through assemblies.

We use good manners and are respectful when we speak to each other face to face or by phone.

- We will speak respectfully at all times.
- We will respect students and staff in and outside of school.
- We will be polite and open doors for all members of staff, visitors and each other.

We always act in a way that considers the feelings and safety of others.

- We behave in a manner that makes sure no one is physically hurt or harmed.
- We avoid saying or doing anything that could cause others to be scared or worried.
- We report any bullying.
- We keep public displays of affection for outside school.
- We will remain on the school site during the school day.
- Fire alarms, extinguishers, fire hoses and emergency doors are there for our safety, we only use them when needed.

We are good ambassadors for Lagan College whilst using any form of social media

- We avoid saying or doing anything online that could cause others to be upset or worried
- We will respect students and staff on social media sites
- We will interact with others online in an appropriate and positive manner
- We will report any cyber bullying to a trusted adult
- We will use digital devices during the school day in line with school policy

We wear our uniform correctly and with pride.

- We will wear our full school uniform correctly and with pride.
- We will quickly change any items of uniform or appearance that are not correct.
- Our hair length, style and colour will be in line with our school Uniform Policy.
- We will wear only one pair of earrings and no other piercings.

We are on time for school and for every lesson.

- We will arrive at school and class on time. Full attendance is important if we are to do well in all our subjects.
- We will arrive at school by 9 am and attend form class or assembly on time at 9-10 am. If we are late, we sign the late book.
- We will try to ensure all appointments, e.g. medical and dental, are made outside of school hours.
- We will only take holidays outside of school term time.
- Parents will phone the school on the first day of absence. An absence note must be given to the form tutor on the first day of return to the school. We catch up on any work missed.

- We only visit the nurse with permission from a teacher, unless it is an emergency. Written permission is recorded in the Student Planner.

We walk calmly around the school keeping to the left

- We move quietly around the school.
- We will stand quietly in single file outside our classroom and wait to be welcomed by our teachers.
- We will use the toilets, designated to our year groups, at break time or lunch time

We are good ambassadors for Lagan College whilst travelling to and from school.

- When we are in our uniform we are especially representing our school.
- We will behave responsibly when travelling to and from school, respecting the standards required on buses.
- We will behave responsibly when walking home appreciating the Glen area as an area of natural beauty
- We will act in ways that gives the local community and shopkeepers a good impression of our school.
- Our standards will be equally high whilst on any school visit.

We come to school with the correct books and equipment.

- We will ensure we come to school with the correct books, kit and equipment.
- We will plan ahead and pack for school the night before.

We complete and hand in homeworks on time.

- We record our homeworks in our homework diaries on the day they are due.
- We should have a place at home where we can do our homeworks undisturbed.
- We will ask our teachers for help if we do not understand anything about our homeworks, before they are due.
- We will make sure that our parents check and sign our Student Planners each week.

We listen carefully when others are speaking

- Our teachers are in charge of our classes. We listen carefully and look at them when they are speaking.
- We listen to one another when asked to speak in class
- We are always ready to ask and answer questions.
- We will show respect in all assemblies and for all acts of worship.
- We will follow the instructions of teachers, non-teaching staff and prefects.

We always work to the best of our ability and with enthusiasm

- We will do as staff asks, promptly and cheerfully.
- We will complete all tasks fully.
- We will ask for help if we need it.
- We are always keen to learn more.

We take pride in our school and help to keep it clean and safe.

- In school we walk calmly, keeping to the left side in corridors. Around school we keep to the pathways and stay within bounds.

- At lunch times we only eat food in the canteen, the bistro, the cafe or the packed lunch area.
- We will only bring water into school to drink during the school day.
- We use bins for litter, lift litter dropped accidentally immediately and we pick up litter even if it is not our own.
- We take care of school furniture, notice boards, displays of work and other equipment.
- We try to limit our visits to the toilets to before school, at break and lunch times or at the end of the school day. We leave the toilets clean and in the condition we found them.
- We always wash our hands after visiting the toilets.
- Our school is a smoking free zone.
- Our school is an alcohol free zone.
- Our school is a drug free zone.
- Our school is a chewing gum free zone.
- We clear everything from our tables after we eat.
- We only sell goods as part of an official school based project.

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY

Serious Sanctions

In order to safeguard the safety and well-being of our students and staff the College will respond to extreme behaviour as outlined below.

- Persistent infringement of school rules will result in suspension and may result in expulsion if a Contract of Return is broken.
- Taking photographs or videos in school, without permission, may result in suspension.
- Students will be suspended if they continue to smoke cigarettes and/or e-cigarettes in school.
- Bullying other students may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Being abusive towards a member of staff may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Racism, sectarianism or homophobic behaviour may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Violence will result in suspension and may result in expulsion.
- Stealing may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Vandalism may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Bringing a dangerous item e.g. a weapon into school will result in suspension or expulsion.
- Bringing alcohol into school or being in possession of alcohol or being under the influence of alcohol will result in suspension or expulsion.
- Taking illegal drugs or having illegal drugs or giving illegal drugs to others will result in expulsion.

All disciplinary matters are fully investigated by Lagan College.

If three or more suspensions are accumulated in an academic year, a student and their parent/carer will be required to attend a consultative meeting with a member of the Board of

Governors (and possibly a representative of the Education Authority) to discuss their child's progress and ongoing placement at Lagan College.

In response to a one-off incident demonstrating any of the extreme behaviours above, a student and their parent/carer may be required to attend a consultative meeting with a member of the Board of Governors (and possibly a representative of the Education Authority) to discuss their child's progress and ongoing placement at Lagan College.

If deemed appropriate, students who have been sanctioned for extreme behaviours with a suspension, will return to school on an agreed contract of return. Whilst we endorse restorative practice, we will take disciplinary action on any students who display extreme behaviours as their actions place not only themselves at risk but other students and the whole school community.

With respect to a serious sanction which, "will result in expulsion", the Board of Governors reserve the right to accept any exceptional circumstances that may influence their decision.

Conclusion

This policy is a working document and will be reviewed annually. The information within this policy was correct as of June 2025.

The full Positive Behaviour Policy is available on request.