



# **Alternative Provision**

## **Home School Agreement**

**2023/24**

### ***This home-school agreement acknowledges –***

- The partnership between parent(s)/Carers and RFHCS
- Children achieve more when parent(s)/Carers and schools work effectively together.

### **School Mission Statement**

- To inspire a love of learning and to sustain pupil progress
- To create a community of children and try to normalise everyday life.
- To offer tailored support and intervention to reduce the risk of a decline in pupil self-confidence and educational achievement
- To work collaboratively with parents, carers and other agencies to improve the overall wellbeing of children and young people
- To enable pupils with medical and mental health needs to be confident, happy, satisfied members of society.
- To support reintegration back to mainstream education or employment, as appropriate

### **Aims**

- To create a happy, secure and supportive learning environment, rich in creativity and challenge
- To place the child's voice at the centre of education, health and care planning
- To offer every pupil full and equal access to all areas of the curriculum, taking into account health or developmental needs through personalised learning programmes
- To help each pupil achieve the greatest possible degree of independence
- To prepare each pupil for life beyond school, encouraging a sense of self-worth and recognition of themselves as part of the community.
- To integrate therapies with curriculum activities where appropriate.
- To value all adults' and pupils' contributions to the school's progress, and celebrate success and achievement.
- To build self-confidence, resilience and respect for self and others.
- To ensure all adults access appropriate specialist training and encourage development to support young people and reach their full potential.

### **Communication**

For pupils on our alternative programmes we maintain a daily call log to support the effective sharing of information between home and school.

Parent(s)/Carers are sent letters informing them of any events, trips and holiday/school closure dates. The school also tries to use email wherever possible to reduce its carbon footprint. We try to use email wherever possible to reduce our carbon footprint. The school makes every effort to contact parents by telephone or text if there is a concern or incident during the school day. This would be followed by a letter home if necessary. The school also uses SIMS for providing

reminders on significant dates or meetings, issues a half-termly newsletter and runs a Parent Group.

It is appreciated if parents could keep us informed about anything that may be happening at home, which may affect their child's ability to thrive and achieve at school.

### **Attendance**

Poor attendance significantly disadvantages children, especially those who have previous gaps in their education. Our work with young people is often very time limited so we aim to –

- Monitor each pupil's attendance record to ensure children attend regularly
- Provide a daily morning call home and offer support throughout the day
- Work with parents to overcome any problems related to their child's attendance and to provide half-termly parent support group meetings
- Significantly improve past attendance figures

In order to do this, we rely on parent(s)/carers keeping us informed of issues that may affect a child's attendance and about any known absences such as hospital appointments, and contacting us promptly if their child is unwell.

### **Homework**

The Royal Free Hospital Children's School believes that carefully planned homework activities can complement and enhance pupil's learning in school – this is especially true for children who may have significant gaps in their education. We will encourage pupils to work independently each week, recorded in their planner, as appropriate.

### **Behaviour**

There is an emphasis at RFHCS young people taking responsibility with support from the adults, and an expectation that the student and the staff members are 'holding the line together'. The Headteacher does not believe in the school simply being a 'safe haven' but instead a supportive, safe place where the students are also expected to put in high levels of effort to develop and grow, ready for the next steps of their life. We call this 'The Challenge Model' and its aims are explained at an induction meeting for each new group. The aim is to increase students' sense of belonging and the ethos is that 'nobody gets left behind' and each student's emotional and academic development and progress is carefully monitored.

To help us achieve these aims, the school has adopted a simple Code of conduct and a clear ethos for our learning community across all our sites.

### **Co-operation Consideration and Contribution**

The school's behaviour policy is based on a positive approach and the use of sensitive discipline – valuing mutual respect, participation and reward.

### ***Safeguarding***

The school adheres to the London Child Protection Procedures, adopted by Camden's Children, Schools and Families. School staff have a responsibility to report concerns to a designated senior manager, who will take an appropriate course of action to ensure a pupil's safety and well-being. Although it is important to have a good relationship with families, it does not override the need to protect the child. Parent(s)/Carers can obtain a copy of these procedures from the School Manager.

### ***Trips and Visits***

The Department of Education has now clarified that parental consent is now only needed for the following:

- Residential trips
- Adventure trips and long journeys that are likely to extend beyond normal school hours

Consequently, permission will no longer be requested from you for school trips or sporting activities. However, you should be reassured that information regarding trips will always be sent out by letter.

### ***Complaints***

Most problems can be sorted out informally by contacting the member of staff concerned; by letter, telephone, or in person, and discussing your concerns with them. We always try to listen and are proud of the positive, mutually supportive relationships we build with parents/carers.

Our complaints policy and procedures are available on the school website.

### **Our Agreement**

#### ***The RFHCS agrees to work with pupils to –***

##### **Provide;**

A varied, relevant and stimulating curriculum

Smaller teaching groups and a friendly, supportive environment - where pupils can expect to receive regular personalised support. You will be expected to engage in every lesson and complete allocated homework tasks.

Clear rules and routines - Health and Safety is paramount – over and above what may be normally expected in a school setting.

Rewards for effort and achievement – the school operates a reward points system.

Daily home-school contact with both pupils, parents/carers.

**Encourage you to;**

Be ready to change and grow - this may involve significant effort on your part. We recognise this can be very challenging for some young people but we are there to help you on the journey.

Develop independence – it is our task to prepare you for your next steps in life and pupils will need to work hard to prepare for the transition to other education, employment or training.

Develop resilience – one of our specialisms is helping young people to try and think differently and take responsibility for their actions.

***The RFHCS agrees to work with Parent(s)/Carers to –***

- Set high standards and provide a really high quality education for your child *“The school provides an exceptional quality of education for pupils” OFSTED 2019*
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets the individual needs of your child
- Encourage your child to achieve his or her potential in all aspects of school life
- Include your child as a valued member of the school - irrespective of gender, race or religion
- Take responsibility for your child’s safety and inform you of any accidents at school
- Keep you informed about your child’s progress
- Provide homework, at a level appropriate to your child’s needs and age.
- Contact you promptly if we have any concerns that may affect your child’s work or behaviour
- Keep you informed about general school matters and any changes to our policies and procedures
- Welcome you into the school and make ourselves available to meet with you
- Keep you informed about school activities through the school website [www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk](http://www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk) , as well as emails/letters home and our half-termly newsletter

***Parent(s)/Carers agree to work with The RFHCS to –***

- Ensure my child attends regularly
- Support the school’s policies, aims and expectations
- Ensure the school has details of how we can be contacted in an emergency
- Keep the school informed of any appointments my child has to attend during school hours
- Ensure that when my child is unwell s/he will not be sent in to school
- Let the school know if my child is unwell and unable to attend

- Let the school know if my child has had an accident at home that has caused injury – e.g. cuts or bruises
- Ensure my child is dressed appropriately for an educational setting
- Inform the school of any problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour
- Attend my child's Health and Education Progress Reviews
- Check and sign my child's School Planner on a weekly basis and provide support with their homework, as appropriate

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Please sign and return to the School Manager

I have read and will adhere to

The Royal Free Hospital Children's School's Home-School Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Carers of \_\_\_\_\_