



Home School Agreement Policy

KHALSA ACADEMIES TRUST – HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT POLICY

This policy is applicable to schools; Khalsa Secondary Academy (KSA), ATAM and The British Sikh School (TBSS), and any further schools we open.

Approved: February 2018

Review date: February 2021

Introduction

All maintained schools are required to publish a home-school agreement and associated parental declaration (see appendix) under the terms of sections 110 and 111 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Khalsa Academies Trust aims to provide the highest quality of education in our schools for all students, to enable them to reach high levels of achievement. We see our home-school agreement as an essential element of our strategy, central to the partnership between school, parents and carers and students.

Objectives and targets

The aims of the home-school agreement reflect the whole school's objectives:

- To provide all students with equal opportunity to achieve their full academic, social and personal development.
- To maintain a stimulating educational community within which all students' individual needs are known, understood and met, and which enables staff and students to work in a co-operative way.
- To ensure commitment to equality of opportunity for all is shared by all and is central to all aspects of school life, regardless of ability, race, gender or class.
- To provide structures which ensure that students, staff, parents and members of the local community are actively involved in the life of the school.
- To give students an understanding of the complex and changing society in which we live, so that they are equipped to make autonomous decisions, and cope with the demands of the modern world.

Action plan

The school's role in the home-school agreement

When students are offered a place, they and their parents are interviewed at the school prior to starting in September. On joining the school, each pupil is placed in a tutor group, which will be her or his base until year 11. The tutor oversees the academic and social progress of each pupil. Each group is based in its own tutor room. Students are encouraged to feel responsible for the appearance and atmosphere of their tutor room.

All students must be able to progress at the speed that is right for them. Each pupil is tested when he or she joins the school and placed in an appropriate ability band. In most areas of the curriculum students are taught in tutor groups for the first three years. In some subject areas tutor groups may be split up to allow for groups to be organised on the basis of ability. In order to get to know students thoroughly, the school aims to ensure that all year 7 students are taught by their tutor. Students of marked ability can follow a fast track and take GCSE early. For those who have special educational needs, help is provided either in ordinary classes or in smaller groups. Provision is made for those students whose first language is not English. Regular reviews take place to assess whether students should move into a different ability band. Students are re-tested at the end of each year to measure the progress that they have made. Teachers are expected to set homework where appropriate and mark it where necessary.

The pupil's role in the home-school agreement

A good working atmosphere is essential. Our code of behaviour encourages students to show self-discipline and be responsible for the consequences of their actions. We expect high standards of attendance and punctuality, friendly and thoughtful behaviour towards others, and for students to prepare themselves for lessons and learning. Students have to agree to complete and hand in homework on time. Homework is monitored by tutors and parents through a contact book, which helps students organise their work. A disciplined approach to homework in the years leading up to GCSE and GNVQ adds up to the equivalent of an extra year's schooling.

Every pupil is expected to wear compulsory school uniform, details of which can be found in the school handbook. Sixth form students do not wear uniform. Most uniform items can be obtained from local suppliers which aim to give the best possible value.

The parents' role in the home-school agreement

The school strongly encourages parents to support their children's education, believing that their involvement is vital for success. Parents are expected to ensure that homework which has been set is done and brought into school by their children. Parents are welcome to come into school or to telephone at any time, and our staff will always be available to help. They are expected to attend parents' evenings once a year to discuss their children's progress.

The school also encourages parents to become involved in helping the school through its parents' association. In addition parents elect five members to the school's governing body. The governors set the school's budget, appoint senior staff and adopt its major policies. An election is held when a vacancy occurs.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of this home-school agreement will be effected at several levels:

- By students through the school council.
- By staff at staff meetings.
- By governors through reports received from the headteacher.

Any changes will be made after consultation with all parents of registered pupils by the governors of the curriculum and welfare committee, who will also be responsible for ensuring that new parents receive the agreement. This home-school agreement will also be monitored regularly to ensure that it reflects any changes in legislation and will be evaluated in the light of any concerns from pupils, parents or staff.

Reviewing

The home-school agreement will be reviewed annually to assess its implementation and effectiveness. Faculty heads will be expected to do this for the headteacher who will report the effectiveness of the agreement to the governing body.

Next school review due:

APPENDIX

All students and parents are asked to sign this contract agreeing to uphold the school's expectations for pupil behaviour, attendance and the completion of homework.

Parental declaration

The pupil's commitment

I agree to:

- Attend school regularly.
- Arrive on time.
- Attend all lessons punctually.
- Be friendly, co-operative and thoughtful.
- Remember books and necessary equipment.
- Focus on making progress.
- Be involved fully in activities.
- Always try to do best work.
- Always complete and hand in homework on time.
- Always wear school uniform.
- Record all relevant information in my 'school planner'.
- Read and abide by the school code of conduct.

Signed by pupil

The family's commitment

We/I agree to:

- Maintain the spirit of this partnership.
- Support the school in upholding its standards and policies.
- Ensure that my child wears school uniform.
- Ensure that he or she does the homework set.
- Monitor and sign her or his 'school planner'.
- Allow my son or daughter to participate in recreational swimming.
- Allow my son or daughter to go on educational visits supervised by a teacher and other responsible adults.
- Attend all meetings as requested.
- Try to be an active member of the parents' association.
- Support learning as a life time commitment, beyond 16.
- Read and abide by the school code of conduct.

Signed by parent/guardian/carer

The school's commitment

The school agrees to see that each pupil:

- Clearly understands the work assignments, and their relevance to her or his course of study.
- Has the structural support in which to make progress.
- Feels a sense of achievement – having learned something or how to do better.
- Feels valued by her or his teacher and that her or his work is regularly assessed and commented upon.
- Is fully involved in any activity so that time is spent positively.
- Acts co-operatively and responsibly.
- Understands homework instructions.
- Has her or his 'school planner' monitored on a regular basis.
- Is supported and sympathetic to each pupil's religious beliefs and customs or those of non-faith.

The school agrees to see that each parent/guardian/carer:

- Is regularly kept informed of their child's progress and of any problems.
- Knows of any sanctions that might have to be applied to their son or daughter.
- Will be invited to discuss progress with teachers at regular intervals.
- Is asked to attend events that celebrate students' successes or displays of their work.
- Knows they can always contact their son or daughter's tutor or a more senior member of staff if that is appropriate.
- Will have any question of bullying dealt with promptly and confidentially.
- Will be informed of any substance abuse by your child that comes to our notice.
- Will be informed in advance of any detentions, wherever possible.
- Will receive financial support where the family resources may prevent the full participation of their son or daughter in school events and activities.
- Will use communication methods that are sympathetic to parent's needs.
- Will be sympathetic to pupils and parents cultural and religious beliefs and expectations.

Signed by interviewer

(Signed on behalf of the school)

Date:

A copy of this agreement will be sent to the parent(s)/carer(s)/guardian(s) for their retention.