



HEATHSIDE SCHOOL
HAMPSTEAD

Terms and Conditions

Introduction

Heathside School is a strong and successful community. It thrives because parents, pupils and staff share an understanding of its aims and subscribe to a common ethos, chiefly of respect and consideration for others. Staff and parents work in partnership to ensure that pupils receive the best possible education and experience of school life in an environment that is built on the principles of honesty, co-operation and support for fellow learners.

Your child joining Heathside implies your acceptance of these Terms and Conditions, and you are indicating your intention to support us by encouraging your child to fulfil his or her academic potential and to accept the rules of school discipline, which are deemed necessary for the general well-being of the School.

The School's Obligations and Commitments

While your child remains a pupil of Heathside, we agree to exercise reasonable skill and care in respect of his or her education and welfare. The obligation will apply during school hours and at other times when your child is participating in activities organised by the School.

We shall monitor your child's progress at the School and produce regular written reports. We shall advise you if we have concerns about your child's progress, but we do not undertake to diagnose dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties. If your child is unable to access or work within the curriculum without individual support, we will request a formal assessment and may suggest individual support within or outside the school. A formal assessment can be arranged either by you or by the School at your expense. If in our opinion the school cannot provide adequately for your child's special educational needs, you may be asked to withdraw your child without being charged fees in lieu of notice.

We undertake not to subject your child to physical contact except where such contact is lawful and may be deemed appropriate for teaching, or to provide comfort to a pupil in distress, or to maintain safety and good order.

If your child requires urgent medical attention while under the School's care, we will, if possible, attempt to obtain your prior consent. However, should we be unable to contact you, with reference to the information provided on the Medical Consent Form, we shall be authorised to make the decision on your behalf should consent be required for urgent treatment including anaesthetic or operations recommended by a doctor.

The Parents' Obligations and Commitments

In order to fulfil our obligations and commitments, we rely on your co-operation. We anticipate that you will ensure that your child attends regularly and punctually, adhering to the published term dates, and that you support our expectation that pupils are diligent, courteous and well behaved and comply with the School Rules, including those concerning appearance and the wearing of uniform. We anticipate that you will encourage your child to work hard in order to achieve the best academic result of which he or she is capable; that you will inform us about any matters which may affect your child in order that we may provide appropriate support; that you will maintain a constructive relationship with the School staff and meet or communicate with them whenever it is in your child's interest to do so.

Unless you notify us to the contrary in writing, you consent to your child's participating, under proper supervision, in contact sports and in other normal sports and activities that may entail some risk of physical injury.

You agree to inform the School of any situations where special arrangements may be needed in relation to your child.

We must be informed (and may require confirmation in writing) of any reason for your child's absence from School. Whenever possible, our prior consent should be sought for absence.

In the interests of each child, his or her parents or guardians are expected to communicate with each other and to reach agreement about decisions affecting their child's education. We will be entitled (unless notified otherwise) to accept instructions from, rely on information provided by and make arrangements concerning the child with any one such parent.

Acceptance and Deposit

An offer of a place for your child at Heathside must be accepted in writing along with a commitment to pay the first term's fees in full and accompanied by payment of the required deposit.

On acceptance of the place, you become liable for the full fees for the first term.

School Fees

All costs incurred in the usual course of the education by us of your child, including the provision of any necessary educational materials, shall be met by the fees unless otherwise notified by the School.

Any parent who has accepted a place for their child at Heathside is liable for the whole of the fees due and any supplemental charges.

Each invoice must be paid in full by the due date, which is always before the start of term.

We reserve the right to refuse to allow your child to attend the school or to withhold any references while fees remain unpaid. There may be an administrative charge for late payments. You consent to our informing any other school or educational establishment to which you propose to send your child of any outstanding fees.

The fees will be reviewed from time to time and may be increased by such amount as we consider necessary.

Extra-Curricular Activities

For extra-curricular activities, such as private music lessons or visits for which you give permission, the costs shall be deemed to be supplemental to items met by the fees and charged accordingly.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

For children requiring additional support delivered by external agencies (Wave 3), parents will meet with the SENDCo and agree the additional provision and associated additional fee required.

Notice requirements

If you wish to withdraw your child from the School, you shall either give a full term's notice (before the beginning of the final full term your child will attend) to that effect, or shall pay us a full term's fees in lieu of notice, at such a rate as would have been charged for the final term of provision if a full term's notice had been given.

Provisions About Notice

- 1 **Notice to be given by Parents** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) a **term's written notice addressed to and received by the Head personally** or signed for by the Head's secretary or the Bursar on the Head's behalf. It is expected that Parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw the Pupil.
- 2 **Acceptance of a place** in Heathside School's nursery provides an automatic route to the formal start of school in Reception, providing we can meet the child's needs. If Parents wish to withdraw their child and not take up the automatic transfer to Reception, proper Notice must be given.
- 3 **Provisional notice** is valid only for the term in which it is given and only when written and accepted in writing by the Head personally or the Head's deputy duly authorised for this purpose.
- 4 **Fees in lieu of notice** means Fees in full for the term of notice at the rate that would have applied had the Pupil attended and not limited to the parental contribution in the case of a scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession.
- 5 **"A term's notice"** to be given by Parents means notice given before the first day of a term and expiring at the end of that term. A term's notice must be given **in writing** if the Parents **wish to cancel a place** which they have accepted, or if Parents **wish to withdraw a pupil** who has entered the School.
- 6 **Cancelling Acceptance:** The cancellation of a place which has been accepted can cause long-term loss to the School if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about schooling for their children. A genuine pre-estimate of loss is fees for between one and 5 years. Nonetheless, the School agrees to limit the Parent's liability to a full term's fees payable as a debt if less than a term's notice of cancellation has been given, or to the full amount of the Acceptance Deposit if more than a term's notice has been given. Cases of serious illness or genuine hardship may receive special consideration on written request.
- 7 **Withdrawal by Parents:** If the Pupil is withdrawn on less than a term's notice or excluded for more than twenty-eight days for non-payment of Fees, Fees in lieu of notice will be immediately due and payable as a debt at the rate applicable to the term in question unless the place is filled immediately and without loss to the School. The charge of a term's Fees represents a genuine pre-estimate of the School's loss in these circumstances, and sometimes the actual loss to the School will be much greater. This rule is necessary to promote stability and the School's ability to plan its staffing and other resources.
- 8 **Prior Consultation:** It is expected that a parent or duly authorised education guardian will in every case consult personally with the Head or with the Head's authorised Deputy before notice of withdrawal is given.
- 9 **Withdrawal by Pupil:** The Pupil's decision to withdraw from the School shall, for these purposes, be treated as a withdrawal by the Parents.

- 10 **Permanent Exclusion:** The Pupil may be formally expelled from the School if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the Pupil has committed a very grave breach of School discipline or a serious criminal offence. Permanent Exclusion is reserved for the most serious breaches. The Head shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases and in consultation with the School's Governors. If the Pupil is excluded permanently, there will be no refund of the Deposit or of Fees for the current or past terms, but the unspent balance of any lump sum prepayment will be refunded without interest. There will be no charge to fees in lieu of notice but all arrears of Fees and any other sum due to the School will be payable.
- 11 **Removal of a Pupil in other circumstances:** The School reserves the right to remove a pupil if the School is not able to meet that pupil's needs, or the Headteacher is of the opinion that by reason of the Pupil's conduct or progress, the Pupil is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities and/or the community life offered by the School, or if a Parent has treated the School or members of its staff unreasonably. The parent or duly authorised education guardian will in every case be consulted personally by the Head or the Head's authorised Deputy before notice of removal is given. The fees for the term in which the child is removed will be forfeited but the deposit will be returned by the school.

School Rules

All pupils and parents are expected to be familiar with the Behaviour Management Policy and any Class Rules displayed by your child's class teacher, and your child must comply with them (as amended from time to time).

The School has a Countering Bullying Policy, which may be enforced by a fixed-term exclusion whether internal or external or expulsion of a pupil who infringes it in a repetitive or serious manner.

Disciplinary Procedures

The Headteacher may require you to remove, suspend or expel your child from the School, if it is considered that your child's attendance, progress or behaviour (including behaviour outside school) is seriously unsatisfactory and that your child's removal is in the School's best interests or in the best interests of your child or other children.

Confidentiality and References

Any references supplied by us shall be confidential. We will take care to ensure that all information that is supplied relating to your child is accurate and any opinion given on his/her ability, aptitude for certain courses and character is fair.

Events beyond the control of the Parties

- 1 **Force Majeure:** An event beyond the reasonable control of the parties to this agreement is referred to below as a "Force Majeure Event" and shall include such events as an act of God, fire, flood, storm, war, riot, civil unrest, act of terrorism, strikes, industrial disputes, outbreak of epidemic or pandemic of disease, failure of utility service or transportation.
- 2 **Notification:** If either party to the Agreement is prevented from or delayed in carrying out its obligations under this Agreement by a Force Majeure Event, that party shall immediately notify the other in writing and shall be excused from performing those obligations while the Force Majeure Event continues.
- 3 **Continued Force Majeure:** If a Force Majeure Event continues for a period greater than 90 days, the party who has provided notification under clause above shall notify the other of the steps to be taken to ensure performance of this Agreement.

General Contractual Matters

- 1 **Management:** It is our intention that the Terms and Conditions will always be operated so as to achieve a balance of fairness between the rights and needs of parents and pupils, and those of the School community as a whole. We aim to ensure that the School, its culture, ethos and resources are properly managed so that the School, its services and facilities can develop. We aim also to promote good order and discipline throughout our School community and to ensure compliance with the law.
- 2 **Legal Contract:** The offer of a place and its acceptance by the Parents give rise to a legally binding contract on the terms of these Terms and Conditions.
- 3 **Change:** This School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is here. For example, there may be changes in the staff, and in the premises, facilities and their use, in the curriculum and the size and composition of classes, and in the School Rules and Regulations, the disciplinary framework, and the length of School terms. Fee levels will be reviewed each year and there will be reasonable increases from time to time.

- 4 **Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with parents and pupils over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, however, parents will be consulted and given at least a term's notice of a change of policy or a change in any physical aspect of the School which would have a significant effect on their child's education or pastoral care. For example, notice would be given of a proposal to remove a subject from the curriculum.
- 5 **Representations:** Our prospectus and website describe the broad principles on which the School is presently run and gives an indication of our history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of publication, the prospectus and website are not part of any agreement between the Parents and the School. **Parents wishing to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus, website or a statement made by a member of staff or a pupil during the course of a conducted tour of the School or a related meeting should seek written confirmation of that matter before entering this agreement.**
- 6 **Third Party Rights:** Only the School and the Parents are parties to this contract. The Pupil is not a party to it. The acts and omissions of Parents are binding on the Pupil and vice versa as to any matter of behaviour, discipline and Fees. All requests and authorities by the Parents are treated as being made on behalf of the Pupil and vice versa.
- 7 **Consumer Protection:** Care has been taken to use plain language in these Terms and Conditions and to explain the reason for any of the terms that may appear one-sided. If any word/s, alone or in combination, infringe the *Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999* or any other provision of law, they shall be treated as severable and shall be replaced with words which give as near to the original meaning as may be fair.
- 8 **Interpretation:** These Terms and Conditions supersede those previously in force and will be construed as a whole. Headings, unless required to make sense of the immediate context, are for ease of reading only and are not otherwise part of the Terms and Conditions. Examples given in these Terms and Conditions are by way of illustration only and are not exhaustive.
- 9 **Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the School and is governed exclusively by the law of England and Wales and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.