



*Learning together, valuing all,
enjoying and achieving*

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

2024/2025

North Lakes School

Home-School Agreement

1. SCHOOL VISION

North Lakes School and its community share in a positive School Vision which states that we are:

A caring school community, where everyone can grow, learn and adapt for the future to achieve personal success.

Our School Mission is to be:

An inspirational and motivated team who are dedicated to:

- Valuing and developing the personal character of all learners
- Ensuring high quality teaching of a deep and rich curriculum
- Broadening horizons and widening opportunities for all

...through building strong relationships, and engaging all members of the community in a warm, diverse and inclusive environment.

This Home-School Agreement supports the school ethos by agreeing a clear set of expectations and responsibilities for teachers, parents and children so that children can be supported as fully as possible in their learning.

The School is fully committed to every child receiving the very best education and to ensuring that all pupils reach their full potential. In order to achieve this, teachers aim to deliver outstanding lessons and the school rightly has high expectations of its pupils. We expect all members of the school community to behave well, work hard, achieve high standards appropriate to their learning abilities, show respect for one another and to ensure that the School is a positive and safe place to be.

For the school to achieve a positive ethos it is essential that all members of the school community work well alongside each other and develop positive working relationships (this includes all staff and other adults working in the school, governors, pupils and parents/carers). Having a positive ethos helps to ensure good behaviour from pupils in school. Young people learn by example and as such, having high standards of expectations from all parties involved in their education will create adults with similarly high standards.

2. INTRODUCTION

This Home-School Agreement has been developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors and reflects key policies within the school. The Agreement is designed to support all members of the school community and to be clear about and fulfil their role in ensuring each young person can be 'the best they can'. By taking up a place at North Lakes School, **it is assumed** that all members of the school community agree with this document in its entirety, and will conform fully to its expectations. **Where this is not the case**, parents/carers must communicate this to the school, in writing, stating precisely the concern they have and stating their reason for not supporting the contents of this Agreement fully.

3. BEHAVIOUR, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The commitment of staff, pupils and parents is vital in order to develop a positive whole school ethos which is built on a shared commitment to displaying courtesy, care, kindness and consideration at all times to all people within the school and wider community. The expectations of staff, pupils and parents/carers are outlined below. Further information on the behaviour standards expected from all members of the school community may be found in our Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy, which is available on the school website or in hard copy on request from the school office.

3.1 What Pupils Can Expect from School

Pupils can expect staff and other adults working in the school to:

- treat them fairly with care, courtesy and kindness at all times;
- use a range of non-verbal and verbal cues to encourage good behaviour and limit inappropriate behaviour;
- respect the views of parents and children, be approachable and listen to them at appropriate times;
- always take seriously any complaints of bullying or inappropriate behaviour witnessed or reported to them;
- set high expectations, clear boundaries and regularly agree classroom and behaviour expectations;
- make clear to all pupils the school's Golden Rule and Cool School Rules;
- make clear to all pupils the school's Online Safety Policy;
- use rewards and, where necessary, sanctions consistently and fairly;
- model the behaviours they wish to see.

3.2 What School Expects from Pupils

School expects pupils to:

- wear full school uniform, avoiding unsuitable jewellery, (including to and from school) and full PE kit correctly – **see Appendix A;**
- follow instructions given by all staff and other adults without arguing;
- use appropriate language;
- follow the school's Golden Rule, Cool School Rules, classroom rules and procedures and not disrupt the learning of other pupils – **see Appendix B;**
- respect the views, backgrounds, religions and beliefs of others;
- consider the needs of all the other people in the classroom and school;
- tell the truth and learn from their mistakes;
- care for the classroom and resources, respecting others' property;
- avoid extreme haircuts– **see Appendix A;** and avoid nail varnish in school;
- lead by example creating a good role model for younger pupils in the school;
- accept responsibility for their behaviour;
- use ICT (Information & Communication Technology – computers, tablets, mobiles) in accordance with school procedures and Online Safety Policy;
- never use a mobile phone on the school premises;
- hand in any mobile phones on arrival in school, to the school office;
- report to a teacher or other adult any bullying behaviour by others including bullying with the use of technology (cyber bullying);
- behave appropriately when outside school;
- be ambassadors for the school.
- **Respect all school property and equipment.**

3.3 What School Expects from Parents/Carers

School expects parents/carers to:

- treat staff and other adults in the school with respect;
- treat other parents, pupils and visitors to the school with respect;
- behave responsibly whilst on school premises;
- only access the school building via reception, for reasons of child protection;
- ensure that their child arrives at school on time;
- make sure their child has plenty of sleep, and a suitable bedtime so that they come to school fresh, alert and ready to learn;
- make sure their child eats well and has a good breakfast so that they are not hungry and are ready to learn;
- keep their child at home if they are unwell;
- encourage their child to have high standards of personal hygiene (including undertaking regular checks for head lice);

- take responsibility for the behaviour of their child and encourage him or her to have high standards of behaviour in and out of school including replacement of school equipment if damaged by their child.
- support the actions of the school in its use of rewards and when it has to use reasonable sanctions to address their child's behaviour;
- work with school staff to help their child accept responsibility for their behaviour and actions;
- support the sanction applied by school where any child has been unfair, unjust, physically violent or discriminatory, thus ensuring all children receive a clear, consistent and powerful message that such behaviour will not be tolerated at school or at home;
- comply with any reasonable sanctions which may be imposed as a result of not following the terms of this Home-School Agreement;
- inform the school of any concerns or problems that may affect the child's work or behaviour;
- ensure that their child is dressed appropriately, in full school uniform (Appendix A), with any necessary equipment, and has their full P.E. kit in school when required;
- ensure their child avoids extreme haircuts, avoids nail varnish, and unsuitable jewellery;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and contacts the school in the event of an absence or lateness;
- make sure their child does not access any unsuitable material on the internet, DVDs or computer games which may harm or upset them;
- request the school's permission if their child needs to bring a mobile phone onto school premises, and ensure that this is handed in to the class teacher on arrival;
- discuss any issues of concern with the teacher, member of SLT or Headteacher in a calm and non-aggressive or threatening manner;
- share any concern about the way that their child has been treated, in a courteous and discrete manner (e.g. discussing the disagreement with the teacher out of earshot of the child) in the first instance with the class teacher;
- report any incidents of bullying including cyber bullying as soon as they are discovered so that the issue can be dealt with promptly by school staff;
- refrain from smoking on the school premises or around entrances/exits, especially at busy times before and after school
- refrain from using foul language in earshot of any young person at any time in or around the school premises
- refrain from bringing dogs onto the school premises (regardless of their size or temperament) or stand with them close to the entrance gate at busy times before and after school.
- consider the implications of posting inappropriate or defamatory details on Social Network sites and the detrimental effect inappropriate comments can have on individuals and the school as a whole;
- support the school's approach to E-safety and not upload or post to the internet any pictures, video or text that could upset, offend or threaten the safety of any member of the school community or bring the school into disrepute

3.4 What Parents/Carers Can Expect from Staff and other adults in the School

Parents/Carers can expect staff and other adults working in the school to:

- treat them with respect;
- set high standards of work and behaviour for all children in their care;
- deal promptly with any incidents of bullying regardless of whether their child is seen as either the bully or the victim;
- ensure that racism, sexism, homophobia or any other discrimination is NOT tolerated;
- celebrate the diverse backgrounds that we all come from;
- enable learners with English as an Additional Language to participate as fully as possible;
- impose sanctions consistently in accordance with the Whole School Behaviour Policy and the school system;
- promote positive behaviour and consistently reward such behaviour in accordance with the Whole School behaviour Policy and the school system;
- promote positive behaviour beyond the school gates and impose sanctions for inappropriate behaviour which reflects negatively on the school and its values;

- discuss their child's actions with them, give a warning and ensure that their child knows what the sanction will be should they continue to misbehave;
- let them know if there are any concerns about a child's work, attendance or behaviour;
- follow and monitor the school's Online Safety Policy to protect children's wellbeing on the internet;
- make sure children do not use mobile phones while on the school premises.

4. LEARNING

Learning is the core purpose of North Lakes School. It is the aim of all members of staff and other adults to ensure the highest standards of progress and attainment are reached with each and every child. In order to achieve this, a strong link needs to be maintained between home and school and each child must be motivated towards learning.

4.1 What Pupils can Expect from School

Pupils can expect school staff and other adults working in the school to:

- encourage a sense of belonging throughout the school community;
- arrive at school on time;
- maintain a well organised and pleasant classroom;
- plan thoroughly for the long, medium and short term and deliver lessons which engage and motivate them to achieve;
- allocate sufficient time for each task;
- pace lessons appropriately considering the individual needs of each pupil;
- provide every child with equal access to the curriculum;
- set tasks according to the pupil's needs, abilities and interests, where appropriate;
- be enthusiastic and develop positive working relationships with pupils and their peers in their classes;
- celebrate the success of pupils in lessons, after school activities and assemblies;
- encourage all pupils to contribute to the work in hand;
- set and review individual targets and communicate these to the parents and children using the Assertive Mentoring system;
- communicate both successes and concerns with parents;
- use assessment information to support pupils in their future learning;
- mark or give feedback on work as soon as possible;
- display their work attractively;
- provide a clear schedule for, and a reasonable amount of homework;
- set homework appropriate for the age and abilities of each pupil;
- eliminate or control hazards which may cause them harm.

4.2 What School Expects from Pupils

School expects pupils to:

- arrive at school on time (by 08:50) and arrive at lessons on time;
- enter the classrooms quietly;
- show positive body language and participate fully and co-operatively in all activities;
- learn where they are asked to learn by the teacher or any other member of the school staff;
- have equipment and books for lessons, including returned homework, thinking journals, reading records etc;
- listen attentively to the teacher who will explain the learning objective, what is going to happen, why and how;
- listen to others' ideas and work co-operatively;
- value other individuals and their contributions to lessons;
- complete homework or other activities as requested and within the time limits set.

4.3 What School Expects from Parents/Carers

School expects parents/carers to:

- encourage their child to achieve their very best in school;
- encourage children to approach learning in school in an enthusiastic and motivated way;
- read to and with their child on a very regular basis;
- ensure children have the correct equipment for school at all times;
- ensure children have pieces of homework fully completed on time;
- help their child to complete, thoroughly check and return homework on or before the deadline;
- provide a quiet place and suitable space, and support the child's homework and other home-based learning activities;
- share any issues about completing homework with the class teacher as soon as practicable;
- attend all Assertive Mentoring meetings relevant to their child's learning. Where this is not possible, to make suitable alternative arrangements with the school to keep up-to-date with their child's progress;
- read and respond to annual school reports.

4.4 What Parents/Carers Can Expect from Staff and other adults in the School

Parents/Carers can expect staff and other adults working in the school to:

- provide a balanced curriculum in order to meet the needs of each child;
- encourage their child to do their best at all times;
- keep them informed about general school matters, and their child's individual progress, via the Assertive Mentoring system;

5. ATTENDANCE

It is a statutory obligation for all children to receive a full-time education. It is essential that all parents with children at North Lakes School ensure that their children receive a full-time education, keeping them away from school only for significant medical reasons or exceptional circumstances.

5.1 What Pupils and Parents/Carers can Expect from School

School staff and other adults working in the school will:

- work closely with parents to resolve issues that prevent pupils attending school on time or regularly;
- work closely with the LA and others to ensure that each pupil receives their entitlement to full-time education;
- release all pupils from the classrooms at 3.30 pm every day

5.2 What School Expects from Parents/Carers

School expects parents/carers to:

- accept their responsibility to ensure that their child arrives at school on time (between 8.45 am and 8.50 am every day) – arrival between 9.00 am and 9.15 am will be marked late; arrival after 9.15 am is recorded as absent in accordance with the school's attendance procedures;
- ensure their child does not arrive on the school playground before 8.45am, when they will NOT be supervised;
- be ready to collect their child at 3.30 pm, unless consent has been given in writing to school for their child to walk home alone (ONLY Y5/6 pupils may walk home alone)
- notify the school if they will be late collecting their child from school, giving an approximate time of arrival;
- notify the school by telephone by 9.00 am if their child is not attending school on that day, giving the reason for absence;

- notify the school in good time if a different person is picking up their child, or if their transport arrangements are changing at the end of the school day;
- keep their child at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of any sickness/diarrhoea;
- arrange holidays during school holidays - any family holiday or event which is not taken in school holiday periods **will not** be authorised by the school.
- avoid any planned absence under any circumstances during school assessment weeks such as the end of Key Stage Two tests ("SATs") in May.

6. COMMUNICATION

Good and effective communication between home and school is paramount in ensuring each child receives an effective education. North Lakes School aims to be open, friendly and welcoming, whilst consistently sharing information with parents/carers on issues concerning their child. Whenever there is a concern either from the school or home, this should be shared at the earliest opportunity, which ensures that members of the school community can be effective in supporting each child's individual needs and education.

6.1 School will provide parents with:

- a dedicated website which contains accurate information linked to areas of school life www.northlakes.cumbria.sch.uk
- a regular School Newsletter with appropriate information (dates, events and activities)
- a termly learning overview online sharing key information relating to learning topics and homework expectations for the term during the early weeks of each term;
- regular letters that share accurate information in a timely manner. Parents are requested to share one or more email addresses in which they would like to receive any 'mail shot';
- copies of any letters missed due to illness or absence, to be provided on the child's return to school;
- 2 opportunities for Assertive Mentoring meetings or parents' interviews per year to discuss their child's progress with their child and their child's class teacher (with additional meetings if required);
- an Annual Report;
- a prompt response to any written concern i.e. within two working days. In the first instance, this may be a holding response until such time as a more comprehensive response can be formulated;
- a time to meet the appropriate member of staff;
- a formal opportunity to comment on the quality of service your children and you receive. Parents also receive a detailed breakdown of the final outcome of the annual parent questionnaire.

6.2 Parents/carers will:

- contact the school immediately, and at the very latest by 3pm that day, with details of any changes to "going home arrangements" for their child;
- contact the school immediately when a concern arises, by phone, in writing or via email to the school office: admin@northlakes.cumbria.sch.uk
- avoid the use of social media to air or share a concern; instead, please contact the school directly to resolve the issue constructively;
- read all appropriate correspondence carefully and take action where necessary e.g. booking performance tickets, parent teacher meetings, making payments for visits etc.;
- ensure that any medicines sent in to school are handed to office staff in a clearly labelled package with details of dosage, timings etc.;
- contact school immediately if there are any changes in emergency contact numbers;
- ensure that any money sent into school is in a clearly named and labelled envelope;
- complete the Annual Parent Feedback Form;
- attend all meetings relevant to their child's education.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 What parents, staff and children can expect from Governors:

Governors will work to the best of their abilities and adhere to their published Code of Conduct (2017).

**PLEASE CONSENT TO THIS HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT AND RETURN INTO SCHOOL
AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR CHILD'S START IN SCHOOL.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Approved by Governors:

Revised and Updated: May 2024

Signed by the Chair of Governors: **Dr M Duke**

Date:

Appendix A: School Uniform

North Lakes School expects all pupils to wear the North Lakes School uniform at all times during the school year. This is to ensure that all pupils are smart, tidy and ready to learn. If our pupils have a positive attitude to their learning, they will make better progress, and school uniform helps with this, as a sign of belonging and a visual expression of our standards.

The uniform has been kept simple, and for convenience can be purchased from two shops in Penrith. Parents are expected to send their children into school correctly dressed and we ask that you inform us by telephone or in writing if, for any reason, the appropriate school uniform cannot be worn.

Supplier Key: SS - Sam Scott's LE - Lakeland Embroidery

Item	Optional or required	Branding
Purple Cardigan or Sweatshirt with school logo	Required	School logo on right-hand side
White Polo Shirt with or without school logo	Optional	School logo on right-hand side
Grey or black trousers, or leggings, or grey skirt, or tailored shorts or pinafore	Required	No branding
Lilac/Purple gingham summer dress	Optional	No branding
Sensible, plain black shoes or plain black trainers	Required	No branding
Wellington boots to access the school field	Optional	Optional
School water bottle	Required	Team colours, school sticker
School book bag	Required	School logo

PE kits		
Plain white t-shirt	Required	No branding
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding
Plain dark track suit for cold weather	Required	No branding
School PE Bag	Optional	School name (printed)

We ask that all school clothing, including outdoor clothing and PE kit, be very clearly labelled with your child's name.

Other items		
School water bottle	Required	Team colours, school sticker
School book bag	Required	School logo

Jewellery

North Lakes School has a policy of no jewellery in school. Pupils may wear a single pair of stud earrings that they must be able to remove for PE and games lessons. No other jewellery may be worn to school although pupils may wear standard watches. Earrings and watches must be removed for PE/games lessons and swimming.

Parents who wish their child to wear jewellery in keeping with their religion/ ethnicity should contact the school direct to discuss the individual requirements.

Do not allow your child to have pierced ears if they are unable to take earrings out and put them in easily.

Only have your child's ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays so they do not miss any PE lessons – **thank you!**

Hairstyles and Hair cuts

Extreme haircuts or hairstyles typically refer to styles that are highly unconventional, attention-grabbing or dramatically different from mainstream norms. Examples of this includes shaved patterns, brightly coloured hair, very long hair, Mohawks, or styles that significantly deviate from traditional cuts.

Children displaying these hair styles will be asked to change their hairstyle. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions such as internal or external suspension. All cases will be dealt with in a fair, non-discriminative manner.

Appendix B: North Lakes School Rules

School Rules are kept simple and positive, so that they are easy to remember:

Golden Rule:

We Treat Others How They Like to be Treated.

Cool School Rules:

We Respect Others

We Keep People Safe

We Help People to Learn