

THE LION WORKS SCHOOL POLICY



Home School Agreement

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Approved by: Sarah Rempel, Director of Education	Date of approval: September 2024
Due to be reviewed: August 2025	Date of review:

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1. Context

The Lion Works School is an Independent special school. We are part of an ethical and progressive organisation that believes it can achieve real change for children, young people and their families.

The Lion Works School is situated within the BCP local authority. We offer an academic and vocational specialist learning provision across KS3, KS4 and Post 16 aiming to reduce barriers to enable successful learning experiences and outcomes. There are a variety of routes a student can take, which include GCSEs, BTECs and other accredited qualifications whilst building confidence, improving wellbeing, enabling self-regulation and increasing attendance. Our school is full of life and has a wealth of resources to spark interest and ignite that passion to achieve, equipping our students for everyday life and the opportunities that await them.

We adhere to the values of **ARC**:

Ambition

Resilience

Community

The Lion Works School operates within the SPELL framework. SPELL is The National Autistic Society's framework for understanding and responding to the needs of children and adults on the autism spectrum. It focuses on five principles that have been identified as vital elements of best practice in autism and emphasises ways to change the environment and our approaches to meet the specific needs of each person.

SPELL stands for Structure, Positive approaches and expectations, Empathy, Low arousal, Links:

Structure	Structure makes the world a more predictable, accessible and safer place. We can support people on the autism spectrum in creating structured environments using visual information.
Positive (approaches and expectations)	We must seek to establish and reinforce self-confidence and self-esteem by building on natural strengths, interest and abilities.
Empathy	We must try to see the world from the standpoint of the autistic child or adult, knowing what it is that motivates or interests them but importantly what may also frighten, preoccupy or otherwise distress them.
Low arousal	Approaches and the environment need to be calm and ordered in such a way so as to reduce anxiety and aid concentration.
Links	Autistic people, their parents or advocates should be seen as partners. Open links and communication will reduce the risk of misunderstanding, confusion or the adoption of fragmented, piecemeal approaches.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out the arrangements for the school's Home School Agreement.
- Serve as a reminder of our commitment to partnership working and achieving the best possible outcomes for all our students.
- Underpin the whole school's ethos, values and beliefs.
- Act as a clear starting point of shared expectations for new students, their parents/carers and the school staff.
- Provide as a clear reference point for exploring and resolving concerns.

3. Legislation and Guidance

Although not a statutory requirement, it is good practice to have a Home School Agreement. This Home School Agreement was drawn up after consultation with parents, students and staff to gather their views. It was then drafted and finalised by the School's Leadership Team and the Proprietary body/School Board. It is reviewed annually.

4. The Agreement

At The Lion Works School we believe in the importance of working together in partnership with our parents/carers, students and staff to achieve the highest possible levels of success for all students.

The school will always aim to:

- Treat all students fairly and keep them safe from harm and provide a calm and nurturing environment built on mutual respect and positive regard
- Provide high quality teaching and support by means of an innovative and creative curriculum that personalises learning based on individual needs and interests wherever possible
- Encourage students to be ready to learn, self-motivated and enthusiastic
- Provide challenge and support to enable all students to reach their full potential
- Use assessment for learning to demonstrate progress and next steps guidance on how to improve their learning
- Encourage students to develop a spiritual awareness, understanding of other cultures and faiths
- Demonstrate and facilitate opportunities for students to develop a sense of responsibility, independence and self-esteem by emphasising their unique strengths and talents
- Demonstrate through our culture and behaviour how to be thoughtful, kind, caring and to speak politely to all
- Encourage students to understand their role within their school and the wider community
- Communicate proactively with parents about any concerns and celebrate successes

- Listen openly and respond constructively to students'/parents' problems and concerns
- Help students to recognise and protect themselves from online abuse or bullying and misuse of social media

Students will be expected to:

- Be kind, polite and respectful to all members of the school community
- Take pride in their appearance
- Treat our school and school property with care and respect
- Treat others as they would expect to be treated

We expect Parents/Carers to:

- Actively encourage and support their child to come to school every day, on time and prepared for learning
- Provide a valid reason for any non-attendance by phoning or emailing the school
- Ensure their child is wearing clothing in line with school uniform expectations and which is suitable for the weather and the expected activity
- Advise the school if they are going to be late or if there is a change to the pick-up arrangements at the end of the day
- Inform the school of any issues which might affect their child's work or behaviour
- Encourage good behaviour, politeness, self-respect and respect for others and their property
- Encourage their child's learning in all areas of life and support them with their homework
- Support the school's ethos and ways of working
- Be available to have a meeting with adults in school about any concerns raised around challenges in learning and behaviour
- Attend and contribute to Annual Review meetings
- Attend Parents' Consultation meetings and support school activities wherever possible
- Follow the school policy and procedures relating to the use of mobile devices and media

Our School Board and Proprietary Body will carry out their legal responsibilities to the school and ensure that:

- School policies provide care and safety for every student
- The school strives to give the best education that provides the best outcomes for every student
- Funding received by the school will be used efficiently to support learning and is spent fairly and demonstrates impact and value for money
- The Proprietary Body will visit the school and meet regularly and make it a priority to raise academic standards in the school and perform Quality Assurance processes