



CULFORD SCHOOL

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STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Definitions

a In these terms and conditions:

“**Acceptance Form**” means the form provided by the School for parents to complete when accepting a place for their child at the School;

“**child**” means a child of whatever age admitted by the School to be educated and includes any pupil aged 18 or over;

“**the Review Procedure**” is the School’s procedure for the review of a decision to exclude a pupil, as amended from time to time, a current copy of which is available on request from the School;

“**the Complaints Procedure**” is the School’s procedure for dealing with parental complaints or concerns, apart from those connected with exclusion;

“**acceptance fee**” means the sum set out in the Schedule of Fees, as amended from time to time;

“**fees**” means the fees set out in the Schedule of Fees, as amended from time to time;

“**Head**” means the person appointed by the Board of Management of Methodist Schools to be responsible for the day-to-day management of the School, including anyone to whom such duties have been duly delegated;

“**School Rules**” means the rules of the School, as defined in the Parents’ and Pupils’ Handbook. A copy is available on the School’s website and is provided to each child on entry and is sent to parents with the letter offering a place at the School, as amended from time to time;

“**term**” means the term of the School as notified to parents from time to time;

“**a term’s notice**” means written notice given not later than the first day of the term preceding the term to which the notice relates;

“**terms and conditions**” means these Terms and Conditions, as amended from time to time;

“**we**” or “**the School**” means the legal entity carrying on as Culford School as identified in Clause 1(b)

below, or its duly authorised representative, as the context requires;

“**you**” or “**the parents**” means each person who has signed the Acceptance Form as parent or guardian of a child or who, with the School’s written consent, has subsequently assumed parental responsibility for such child.

b The Acceptance Form, the Schedule of Fees, the Pupils’ Handbook, the Disciplinary Procedure as summarised below in paragraph 6, and these Terms and Conditions (as varied from time to time in accordance with these terms and conditions) constitute the terms of a contract between you and Culford School. It is not intended that the terms of the contract shall be enforceable on your child or by any other third party.

2 Acceptance and Acceptance Fee

a An offer of a place for your child at the School is accepted by your completion of the Acceptance Form and paying the acceptance fee.

b The acceptance fee is not refundable, unless it is agreed with the Headmaster. It is transferred to our Bursaries fund which forms part of the general reserves of the School, once your child has left the school.

c If, after acceptance, your child is subsequently withdrawn less than one month **before** the start of the first term, one term’s fees for that term will remain payable.

d We may withdraw the offer of a place for your child and retain the acceptance fee if we become aware that financial obligations to the child’s previous school have not been met.

3 School Fees

a The costs of teaching, meals, standard textbooks and teaching resources shall be met by the school fees, unless otherwise notified by the School. Stationery and additional textbooks shall be deemed to be supplemental to items met by the fees and charged accordingly.

- b Any extra-curricular activities such as individual music lessons, trips and visits in which you agree your child may participate shall be deemed to be supplemental to items met by the fees and charged accordingly. In addition, all public examination charges and any charges incurred by the School in providing for the special educational needs of your child shall be charged as supplemental to the fees.

- c Each person who has signed the Acceptance Form is liable for all sums due to the School, including fees and supplemental charges.

If your child has been awarded a scholarship or bursary, your liability will be for the amount of fees due after taking account of that award. An award may be withdrawn with immediate effect if, in the opinion of the Head, your child's attendance, progress or behaviour no longer merits the continuation of the award, but any such withdrawal of an award will not operate so as to increase the fees due in respect of a term which has already commenced, but will do so for future terms. Scholarships and academic bursaries awarded on entry into the Senior School are conditional upon your child completing a sixth form course. If your child does not complete the sixth form course, the award is void, and you must pay the full school fees for the period your child has been in the Senior School, and the period of notice. The scholarship will not become void if your child is required to leave the by the School.

- d Each invoice must be paid in full before the first day of term or, if fees are paid by direct debit, in monthly instalments (each instalment being due on the first working day of each month) with supplemental charges being collected at the start of term. Where payment is made by direct debit, each term's fees shall be deemed to be a separate agreement and the number of payments for each agreement must not exceed four.
- e The School reserves the right to refuse to allow your child to attend the School or to withhold any services normally provided by the School while fees or supplemental charges remain unpaid. An interest charge of 1.5% per month will apply for the time being of the late payment. You consent to our informing any other school or educational establishment to which you propose to send your child of any outstanding fees.
- f The fees will be reviewed from time to time and may be increased by such amount as the School considers reasonable. One term's notice of any increase in the fees due for a particular term will normally be given.
- g Fees and any unpaid supplemental charges cannot be reduced as a result of absence due to illness or otherwise. In the event that your child takes study leave at home before or during public examinations or stays at home following those examinations, no reduction of fees will be made in respect of such periods spent at home. Fees will not be refunded or waived if a term is shortened or a holiday extended, or for any other cause.

- h It may be necessary to shut the School for reasons beyond its control (such as bad weather or contagious disease). No refund of fees can be made and the School may ask you to remove your child during such closure.

4 Notice requirements

- a If you wish to:
 - (i) withdraw your child from the School (other than at the end of the Sixth Form); or
 - (ii) withdraw your child from an activity charged as supplemental

you shall either give a term's notice to that effect or shall pay the School a full term's fees (or, as the case may be, a term's charges for the activity that your child has ceased to participate in) in lieu of notice. In cases where notice is not given, the sum in lieu of notice will become due and owing to the School as a debt on the first day of the term which would have been the final term of provision if a term's notice had been given.

- b A boarder may only change status from boarder to day pupil at the start of the academic year and with a minimum of one term's notice of such a change.
- c You acknowledge that the School's affairs are organised on a termly basis, these terms and conditions must reflect that fact and that it is not possible for you to reduce the amount of fees due or to obtain a refund of fees by withdrawing your child or by your child's ceasing to participate in an activity part-way through a term.

5 School Rules

- a it is a condition of remaining at the School that your child complies with the School Rules as amended from time to time. In particular you undertake to ensure that your child attends school punctually and that your child conforms to such rules relating to academic expectations, appearance, dress and behaviour as shall be issued by the School from time to time.
- b To ensure compliance with the School Rules on illegal drugs the Head may require your child to submit to testing for drugs in accordance with the School's Drugs Policy.
- c The School reserves the right to monitor your child's email communication and Internet use for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the School Rules.
- d You consent to (b) and (c) above in respect of your child.

6 Disciplinary Procedures

- a The Head may, at his discretion, exclude your child from the School if he considers that your child's attendance, progress or behaviour (including behaviour outside school) is unsatisfactory, or is likely to bring the School into disrepute and, in the reasonable opinion of the Head, the removal is in the best interests of your child or other children.

- b The Head may, at his discretion, exclude your child if the behaviour of you or either of you is, in the opinion of the Head, unreasonable and affects or is likely to affect adversely your child or other children, or the well-being of School staff or to bring the School into disrepute.
- c Should the Head exercise his right under sub-clause 6(a) or 6(b) above, you will not be entitled to any refund or remission of fees or supplemental charges paid or due. However, in such circumstances fees in lieu of notice will not be payable.
- d The School's Exclusion Policy and the School Rules set out examples of offences likely to be punishable by exclusion. These examples are not exhaustive and, in particular, the Head may decide that exclusion for a lesser offence is justified where there has been previous cause for concern.
- e The review of a decision to exclude a pupil is governed by the Review Procedure.

7 School Organisation

- a Subject to these terms and conditions, the School undertakes to accept your child as a pupil of the School from the time of joining the School until the end of his or her school career. However, the School shall not be obliged to permit your child to progress between sections of the School unless satisfied that it is appropriate to do so having regard to his or her academic attainments and all other relevant circumstances. The School will make a decision as to whether your child may join the Preparatory, Senior School or Sixth Form after the results of the appropriate assessments have been considered.
- b While your child remains a pupil of the School, we undertake to exercise reasonable skill and care in respect of his or her education and welfare. This obligation will apply during school hours and at other times when your child is permitted to be on School premises or is participating in activities organised by the School.
- c In order to fulfil our obligations, we need your co-operation, in particular by: fulfilling your obligations under these terms and conditions; encouraging your child in his or her studies, and giving appropriate support at home; keeping the School informed of matters which affect your child; maintaining a courteous and constructive relationship with the School; and attending meetings and otherwise keeping in touch with the School where your child's interests so require.
- d The School undertakes not to subject your child to corporal punishment, or to physical restraint except where such restraint may be deemed appropriate for the maintenance of good order, your child's safety or that of others. Unless you notify us to the contrary, you consent to your child participating, under proper supervision, in contact sports and in other sports and activities entered into by the School, which may entail some risk of physical injury.
- e If your child requires urgent medical attention while under the School's care, the School will, if

practicable, attempt to obtain your prior consent. However, should it prove difficult to contact you the School shall be authorised to make a decision on your behalf should consent be required for urgent treatment (including anaesthetic or operation) recommended by a doctor.

- f Although the School prospectus describes the broad principles on which the School presently operates, and is believed to be correct at the time of printing, it does not form part of the contract between you and the School. The School reserves the right to make changes to any aspects of the School, including the curriculum.
- g Your child's progress will be monitored by the School and reports will be written regularly. Although children are routinely screened for literacy, the School does not undertake to diagnose dyslexia or other specific conditions. A formal assessment can be arranged either by you or the School at your expense. You may be asked to withdraw your child without being charged fees in lieu of notice if, in the opinion of the Head, the School cannot provide adequately for your child's needs.
- h From time to time, the School may wish to use your child's photograph in School publications and other publicity materials such as press releases. If you do not wish this to happen, you should inform the School in writing through the form provided when your child joins the School.
- i Religious observance at the School shall be conducted in accordance with the School Rules.

8 The Parents' Obligations

- a It is a condition of your child joining the School that you complete and submit to the School a medical questionnaire in respect of your child. You undertake to inform the School of any health or medical condition, disability or allergy that your child subsequently develops, whether long-term or short-term, including any infections.
- b You undertake to inform the School of any situations where special arrangements may be needed in relation to your child; e.g. pre-existing reports indicating special educational needs, or any previously expressed concerns about such needs.
- c The School will be entitled (unless notified otherwise) to treat any communications from any person who has signed the Acceptance Form as having been given on behalf of each such person. Unless other arrangements are agreed between you and the School, we shall be entitled to treat any communication from the School to any such person as having been made to each of them.
- d Leave of absence must be obtained from the Head if your child is to be absent from school. Normally, leave will not be granted during term time for holidays.
- e We cannot accept responsibility for the welfare of your child while off the School premises unless he or she is taking part in a school activity.

f If you have cause for concern as to a matter of safety, care, discipline or progress of your child you must inform the School without delay. Complaints should be made in accordance with the School's Complaints Procedure.

g Where parents are resident overseas, it is a condition of acceptance into the School that suitable guardianship arrangements are in place. Forms are included with the entry documentation setting out the details, together with the School's Guardianship Policy.

9 Insurance

You must make your own insurance arrangements if you require cover for your child's person or property while at school. Your child is included in an obligatory personal accident insurance scheme, the charge for which is included in the Fees.

10 Pupils Laptops

From September 2010 all Fourth Form (Year 9) and Lower Sixth (Year 12) are required to have a suitable laptop. The Director of ICT will provide relevant specifications on request and a detailed leaflet about the Schools Laptop Scheme is available; parents are advised to purchase machines through the School Scheme to ensure compatibility and to benefit from on-site software support, repairs and group purchase rates. If a child does not have such a laptop the School reserves the right to exclude your child from lessons where it is required or if a spare laptop is available from ICT, supply the laptop and bill as a supplemental item.

11 Confidentiality and References

a You consent to our supplying information and a reference in respect of your child to any educational institution which you propose your child may attend. Any reference supplied by us shall be confidential. The School will take care to ensure that all information that is supplied relating to your child is accurate and any opinion given on his or her ability, aptitude for certain courses and character is fair. However, the School cannot be liable for any loss you are or your child is alleged to have suffered resulting from a reference or report given by us.

b You consent to us making use of information relating to your child whilst he or she is at the School and after he or she has left for any legitimate purposes, including communicating and managing relationships with pupils and former pupils of the School.

12 Intellectual Property Rights

We shall recognise any intellectual property rights vested in your child.

13 Changes in ownership etc

For the purposes of reconstruction or amalgamation, the School reserves the right to transfer the undertaking of the School to any other natural or legal person, and to assign the benefit of this

contract in connection with any such transfer, and/or to amalgamate the School with any other educational institution.

14 Communications

All notices required to be given under these terms and conditions must be given in writing. You undertake to notify the School of any change of address of any person who has signed the Acceptance Form. Communications (including notices) will be sent by the School to the address shown in its records. Notices required to be given under these terms and conditions must be addressed to the Head and sent to the School's address. If sent by first class post, notice shall be deemed to have been given on the second day after the letter was postmarked.

15 Change in Family Circumstances

In the event of a change in family circumstances such as parental discord and/or marital breakdown you should keep the School informed of all issues affecting the welfare of your child. The School should be notified of any court orders relating to your child. In the event of conflicting instructions from parents, the School will act in accordance with any orders of which it is aware. Otherwise, the School is authorised to act as it thinks prudent in the circumstances, taking legal advice if necessary, and may require the parents to seek clarification of a position by a court order. Any expense incurred by the School in obtaining legal advice in such circumstances will be charged to your account as a supplemental charge.

16 Old Culfordian (OC) joining Fee

There is one-off payment of £75 which is charged for each pupil who joins the Senior School to cover the Old Culfordian (OC) joining fee. The fee is invoiced in the Spring term after the pupil joins the Senior School and entitles all current and former pupils to receive a copy of FOCUS which is the magazine for all Culford alumni and information on all re-union events.

17 Interpretation

Headings in these terms and conditions are for ease of understanding only and do not form part of these terms and conditions.

18 Jurisdiction and Governing Law

The contact between you and the School is governed by English Law. You agree with us to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

19 Variations

We reserve the right to make reasonable modifications to these terms and conditions from time to time.