



St Mary's Catholic College
Wallasey

Behaviour Policy

Addendum:

Detentions

2023-2025

Date of publication

September 2023

Aims

The aim of this addendum is to clarify the position on after school detentions

A detention is a commonly used sanction, often used as a deterrent to future misbehaviour. It is typically a short period where the pupil is required to remain under supervision of school staff when their peers have been allowed to go home or to break.

The St Mary's Behaviour policy states that lengthy detentions served days after the incident don't make the point or teach anyone better future behaviour. Any detentions should be as soon after the event as possible,

Legislation, statutory requirements and statutory guidance

This policy is based on legislation and advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- [Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff 2022](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement - 2022](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice.](#)

What the law allows

The law states that teachers have authority to issue detentions to pupils, including same-day detentions. A school's behaviour policy should make clear that detention (including detention outside of school hours) can be used as a possible sanction. This addendum clarifies the use of after school detentions as part of our behaviour policy.

A detention outside normal school hours will be lawful if it meets the following conditions:

- the pupil is under 18 (unless the detention is during lunch break);
- the headteacher has communicated to pupils and parents that detentions outside school sessions may be used; and
- the detention is held at any of the following times:
 - a) any school day where the pupil does not have permission to be absent;
 - b) weekends during term - except a weekend during, preceding or following the half term break; or
 - c) non-teaching days – usually referred to as 'training days', 'INSET days' or 'non-contact days', except if it falls on a public holiday, on a day which precedes the first day of term, during the half-term break, or after the last school day of the term.

It will always be our aim to communicate detentions with parents however parental consent is not required for detentions that satisfy the conditions mentioned above.

If a break time or lunchtime detention is issued, staff should allow reasonable time for the pupil to eat, drink and use the toilet.

Detentions at St Mary's Catholic College

Department/teacher detentions

Department detentions can take place at breaktime, lunch time or after school. Detentions issued by departments are most likely to be for disruption to learning or failure to produce homework. Teachers can set these detentions as long as they meet the conditions set above.

Head of Year/Inspire tutor detentions

Pastoral detentions can take place at breaktime, lunch time or after school. Pastoral teams can set detentions as long as they meet the conditions set above.

Serious breach detentions

If a serious breach occurs a Pupil will complete a 15 minute detention the next day from 3:05pm to 3:20pm. Notice of this shared on the Arbor app with parents when the serious breach occurs.

Failure to attend a serious breach 15 minute detention will result in one or more of the following escalations:

- 1) 30 minute detention after school, this will be
- 2) Internal reflection time
- 3) 1 hour detention after school
- 4) Suspension

Monitoring this policy

This will be monitored in line with the behaviour policy, which will be reviewed by the headteacher and local governing body at least termly, or more frequently, if needed, to address findings from the regular monitoring of the behaviour data

Ensuring Equality

We will analyse our behaviour incident records to look for patterns and ensure that, in its operation, it is not discriminating against particular groups of pupils.

As a college we fully acknowledge our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 to consider the safeguarding of our pupils and consider any special educational needs before any

decisions are made regarding consequences. In doing so we recognise that some pupils require a more sensitive and differentiated approach.