

## **POLICY TITLE: Home - Academy Agreement**

**STATUS: Statutory**

**REVIEWED BY: TEFAT**

**DATE of REVIEW: September 2015**

### **AIM**

The aim of this agreement is to support the partners in the educational process – the Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, the individual academy, the pupils and parents - in ensuring success.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES**

This agreement relates most closely to the behaviour management, homework and attendance policies. It impacts on our approach to the prospectus and the academy profile. It is also relevant to many other policies such as assessment, safeguarding and child protection, equality, nutritional standards, racial equality, target setting and teaching and learning.

### **Responsibilities**

Each individual academy must publish its own Home-Academy-Agreement which is relevant to its individual setting. This must include the following key points:

- ✿ the academy's aims and values;
- ✿ the academy's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory academy age;
- ✿ the responsibility of each pupil's parents; and
- ✿ what the academy expects of its pupils.

The home-academy agreement must include an associated parental declaration. Academies must take reasonable steps to ensure that all registered parents of pupils sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-academy agreement.

Academies are not required to seek the signature of a parent where they consider that there are special circumstances relating to the parent or pupil in question that would make it inappropriate to do so. Academies must not:

- ✿ invite a parent or child to sign the parental declaration before the child has been admitted to the academy;
- ✿ make the signing of the parental declaration a condition of the child's admission to the academy; or
- ✿ base a decision about admitting a child to the academy on assumptions about whether his or her parents are or are not likely to sign the parental declaration.

A home-academy agreement must not include any terms or conditions which would be unlawful or unreasonable, such as requiring parents to make a financial contribution to the academy, or refusing to waive any requirement on academy uniform in cases where the parent and child cannot comply for religious reasons. Breaches of the terms of the agreement will not be actionable through the courts. Furthermore, a child must not be excluded from academy, or face punishment, as a result of a parent's failure to sign the agreement or abide by their declaration. Furthermore parents should not face any sanction for either not signing the home-academy agreement or failing to abide by its requirements.

Academies may also invite any pupil, who they consider to have a sufficient understanding of the home-academy agreement as it relates to them, to sign the agreement as an indication that they acknowledge and accept the academy's expectations of its pupils.

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust will review the agreements from time to time. Before adopting or revisiting a home-academy agreement, all parents of registered pupils at the academy must be consulted.

## Contents of the Agreement

Elliot Foundation Trust academies must cover the following topics in home-academy agreements:

- ✿ The ethos of the academy
- ✿ The importance of, and responsibility for, regular and punctual attendance
- ✿ The importance of, and responsibility for, good discipline and behaviour
- ✿ What is expected from academies, parents and pupils in relation to homework
- ✿ Information about children's school reports (frequency and contents)
- ✿ The information academies and parents will give one another
- ✿ Permissions that the academy seeks in relation to:
  - ✿ photography,
  - ✿ local visits
  - ✿ use of the internet and online safety

## The parental declaration

The parental declaration on the form should be clear and easy to understand. Academies need to consider carefully what they are asking parents to sign and ensure that it is reasonable.

Where necessary the academy should translate the home-academy-agreement and the parental declaration so that parents who are not English speakers can understand both of these and understand what they are asked to sign.

## Signing of the agreement

Academies should take reasonable steps to ensure that all 'parents' both within and outside the child's home, giving equal weight to both mothers and fathers, are given the opportunity to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-academy agreement, and review the content of the agreement regularly during the time their child is at academy. Where parents have separated it is important that, where possible, both mothers and fathers are given the opportunity to sign a copy of the agreement's parental declaration.



## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **The Principal will:**

Ensure that the home-academy agreement and other significant communications with parents and pupils are reviewed at least every two years alongside the updated Elliot Foundation policy in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and governors.

### **Staff and pupils will:**

Follow the academy codes embodied in the home-academy-agreement

Embrace the positive ethos of the academy

### **Parents and carers will:**

Sign and adhere to the home-academy-agreement with the full intention of adhering to the rules and principles.

Follow the academy code as outlined in the home-academy agreement.

### **The Local Governing Body will:**

Review this agreement and the policy, with guidance from the Principal, and alongside the updated Elliot Foundation policy, every two years.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This statement will be reviewed biennially by TEFAT.

Equalities impact assessment considered

**DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: July 2017**