



Stockport Academy

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Academy Charter

'a world-class learning environment'

The Academy

The Academy is part of The United Learning Trust (ULT), acting by the Governing Body as now or in the future constituted. It is assumed that a student will, subject to conduct and academic ability, progress through the Academy and complete the Sixth Form. ULT Academies are inclusive and welcoming schools where students of all faiths, backgrounds and abilities are valued and respected.

The Principal is the person appointed by ULT to be responsible for the students.

The Parent/s are those who have parental responsibility for the student. The parents/carers of each student are expected to give their support and encouragement to the aims of the Academy and to uphold and promote its good name, to continue the student's education at home and to ensure that the student maintains appropriate standards of punctuality, behaviour, diligence, language, discipline and dress.

Our Aim: The aim of the Academy is to bring out the best in everyone, to maximise every student's potential and to maintain our mission of "No Limits, No Excuses". We will do this by striking a balance between academic and practical work, physical education, moral and spiritual development and the pursuit of leisure activities. We are committed to high standards of teaching and care and we welcome parental contact. The Academy is a private self-regulating community which respects the human rights of students and their parents, who in turn accept that the Academy's lawful policies, disciplines and rules must sometimes take precedence over the wishes of individuals.

Students: The Academy is an environment in which students are encouraged to participate in work and leisure activities with enthusiasm and commitment and to behave with tolerance and understanding, respecting the needs of others. We provide an inclusive environment to help develop each student's sense of tolerance, compassion, service and love of learning. Our aim is for the Academy to be a safe environment.

The Academy Charter: The parents/carers of each student will be supplied with a copy of the Academy Charter, giving information about the ethos and rules at the Academy and which the parents/carers and students will be asked to sign upon the student's entrance to Stockport Academy. The purpose of the Academy Charter is to help every student to know what is expected and to encourage courtesy and consideration for others.

Admission to the Academy

Registration: Admission to the Academy is free and entry will be subject to the availability of a place and the student satisfying the admission requirements at the time. The Academy operates an equal opportunities policy. The Academy Sixth Form will enable students to continue their education through to age 19.

Ethos

Stockport Academy aims to foster interpersonal relationships between teachers, students, support staff and the community which are based on respect, compassion, support and tolerance. The Academy seeks to highlight and reward achievement and effort at every opportunity as part of its policies on Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions. Wherever possible, the Academy seeks to lay emphasis on positive encouragement rather than disciplinary sanctions. All students are guided and supported by the Pastoral Management system within the Academy. This guidance will also include issues or difficulties which a student may encounter in their life outside the Academy.

The Academy Rules

- All students will act with courtesy and consideration towards others and towards the environment at all times.
- All students will, without refusal or objection, follow any instruction given by any member of staff at all times
- All students will wear the Stockport Academy uniform with pride.

Uniform: Full Academy uniform must be worn at all times (this includes the journey to and from home). Students will not be allowed entry into the Academy building without full uniform, unless a medical note gives them temporary dispensation. Students should remember that they are representatives of Stockport Academy and should strive to uphold its reputation in the wider community by both their appearance and conduct. The Academy uniform consists of a racing green blazer with badge, a racing green tie, white shirt, optional green Academy jumper, black skirt or trousers, and black shoes (not trainers)

or pumps). Female students must wear a black skirt no shorter than knee-length or black, tailored trousers with no fashion side pockets. Male students must wear black tailored trousers with no fashion side-pockets. No studs or other decoration will be acceptable on trousers. Trainers must not be worn in the Academy except for taking part in sport. Stockport Academy has a no-jewellery rule and there are no exceptions to this on any grounds. Extremes of fashion in hairstyles will not be permitted. Chewing gum is not permitted. Personal mobile 'phones, MP3 players and other electronic playing devices are not permitted to be used during the school day.

Care and Good Discipline

Parents' Authority: The parents authorise the Principal while *in loco parentis* or acting on behalf of a student who has reached the age of 16, to take and/or authorise in good faith all decisions that safeguard and promote the student's welfare. Parents give consent to such physical contact as may be lawful, appropriate and proper for teaching and for providing comfort to a student in distress, or to maintain safety and good order, or in connection with the student's health. Unless you notify the Academy to the contrary, you consent to your child participating, under proper supervision, in contact sports and in other sports and activities which may entail some risk of physical injury.

Conduct and Attendance: Stockport Academy attaches importance to good attendance, courtesy, integrity, manners and good discipline. Parents warrant that the student will take a full part in the activities of the Academy, will attend each Academy day (the Academy's minimum expectation is 95% attendance each year), will be punctual, will work hard, will do as they are asked without question or refusal, will be well behaved both in and out of lessons and will comply with the Academy Rules about the wearing of uniform. Students may receive health and life skills education appropriate to age in accordance with the curriculum from time to time. Should any student fail to act in accordance with these expectations and the Academy rules, then the Academy reserves the right to interview parent(s) in order to remedy the situation. If these discussions do not lead to positive improvements, parents will be asked to find an alternative educational institution for their child. The Academy reserves the right to permanently exclude any student for either a single isolated incident or persistent failure to follow the Academy rules.

Absences: If a student is absent from school through illness then it is the parent's responsibility to inform the student's form tutor. This should be done either by telephone or e-mail, or by a written note. If the absence is through a legitimate cause then it will be registered as authorised. Absences cannot be authorised for reasons other than on medical grounds unless prior written approval has been given by the Assistant Principal. Holidays taken in term time will not normally be authorised as these interfere with students' education.

Discipline: Students and parents have a responsibility to ensure that incidents of disruption, violence, bullying and any form of harassment are reported to the appropriate person in the Academy. The Academy also works positively with external agencies, as appropriate. The Principal is also responsible for the imposition of any sanction, suspension during investigation or following a breach of Academy discipline, and removal or expulsion.

Rewards: Opportunities will be taken readily to praise achievement, to acknowledge outstanding conduct, to commend caring actions and to celebrate successes. College Points will be issued to individuals for examples of the following achievements:

- Good or improved attendance and punctuality
- Excellent uniform
- Being a good citizen
- Having correct equipment and planners
- Meeting healthy eating targets
- Meeting academic targets
- Meeting behavioural targets
- Completing homework on time

The Student's Health: The Principal may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the student's general physical and mental health. Parents will be asked to complete a form of medical declaration concerning the student's health and must inform the Principal in writing if the student develops any known medical condition, health problem, allergy, physical disability or will be unable to take part in games or sporting activities or has been in contact with infectious diseases. Students entering the Academy may be required to have a medical examination. Those with parental responsibility are invited to be present. If a member of staff suspects that a student's behaviour or appearance gives grounds for suspicion of illegal substance abuse, the Principal may require the student to give a biological sample under medical supervision. A record of such a sample will not form part of the student's permanent medical record.

Conduct: The Principal is responsible for the care and good discipline of students while they are in the charge of the Academy or its staff, and for the day-to-day running of the Academy and the curriculum. The Principal is not responsible, unless negligent, for a student who is absent from the Academy in breach of Academy discipline. It is a condition of remaining at the Academy that parents and the student (including a student aged 16+ and 18+) accept the Academy regime and the Academy Rules (in so far as they are lawful and reasonable) as to appearance and dress and the rules of Academy discipline that apply from time to time.

Lunchtimes: All students are expected to remain on site for lunch and they can either eat in the Academy Refectory or bring sandwiches etc. Students will not have the option to go home for lunch.

Curriculum

The Academy will drive academic excellence through a strong and innovative curriculum that stimulates and inspires students and which is designed to allow all to develop the skills and qualifications necessary for tomorrow's world. The Academy will have a specialism of Science supported by a theme of Business and Enterprise. Each student will be assigned a personal mentor (usually their form tutor) to encourage, aid and guide him or her throughout his or her life at Stockport Academy, ensuring the focus is always where it matters most – the students.

Progress Reports: The Academy monitors each student's progress and parents will, from time to time, receive reports in writing and in discussion with staff.

Special Educational Needs: Stockport Academy is an inclusive community and strives to do its utmost to cater for all students. There is very good provision for students at all stages on the SEN register and the Academy draws on the services of many other agencies (e.g. educational, social and medical) in order to provide the best care, support and guidance for each individual student. The Academy complies with all the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice.

Examinations, Reports and References: The Academy will enter a student's name for an examination if the Principal is satisfied that such is in the best interests of the student. Information supplied to parents and others concerning the progress and character of a student and about examination, further education and career prospects and any references will be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill but otherwise without liability on the part of the Academy.

General Conditions

Special Precautions: The Principal needs to be aware of any matters that are relevant to the student's security and safety. The Principal must therefore be notified in writing immediately of any court orders or situations of risk in relation to a student for whom any special safety precautions may be needed. A parent may be excluded from Academy premises if the Principal, acting in a proper manner, considers such exclusion to be in the best interests of the student or of the Academy.

Absence of Parents: When both parents will be absent from the student's home for a 24-hour period or longer, the Academy requires, in writing, the name, address and telephone number for 24-hour contact of the adult to whom parental responsibility has been delegated in loco parentis.

Liability and Insurances: Stockport Academy does not, unless negligent, accept responsibility for accidental injury or loss of property. The Academy undertakes to maintain those insurances which are prescribed by law. All other insurances are the responsibility of parents including insurance of the student's personal property whilst at the Academy or on the way to or from the Academy or on any Academy sponsored activity away from the Academy. The Academy is not the agent of the parents for any purpose related to insurance.

Students' Personal Property: Students are responsible for the security and safe use of all personal property and are responsible for ensuring that all such property is clearly marked with the owner's name. A student may not bring any item of equipment on to Academy premises which runs off mains electricity without the prior written permission of the Principal.

Concerns/Complaints: Parents who have cause for serious concern as to a matter of safety, care or quality of education should inform the Principal without delay. If a parent has a complaint about any aspect of the Academy, then they must write to the Vice-Principal, who will inform them of the correct complaints procedure.

Confidentiality: Stockport Academy will take care to preserve the confidentiality of information concerning the student and parents in accordance with Data Protection Legislation. The parents, however, consent on behalf of themselves and the student to the Academy (through the Principal, as the person responsible) obtaining, holding, using and communicating, on a

'need-to-know' basis, confidential information which, in the opinion of the Principal, is material to the safety and welfare of the student and others, including a student aged 16 and over. The parents consent also to the Academy communicating with any other Academy which the student attends or which a parent proposes the student should attend about any matter concerning the student, whether or not the information passing is also held in machine-readable form.

Intellectual Property: The Academy reserves all rights and interests in any intellectual property rights arising as a result of the actions of a student in conjunction with any member of staff of Stockport Academy and/or any other students at the Academy for a purpose associated with the Academy. Any use of any such intellectual property rights by a student is subject to the terms of a licence to be agreed prior to the use between the student, the student's parents and the Academy. The Academy will allow the student's role in creation/development of intellectual property rights to be acknowledged.

Academy and Company Publications: From time to time, students may be required to be photographed for educational purposes such as newsletters, newspaper articles, Awards Evenings etc. Students will not be identified by name without permission from parents (except in the case of our Leavers' Year Book). Consent for a student's image to be used in Academy and Company publications (and for names to appear in the Year Book) will be deemed to have been given unless parents write to the Principal stating that they do not wish the image of their child to appear in any Academy publication.

Consumer Protection: Care has been taken to use plain language in this Charter and to explain the reasons for any of the terms that may appear one-sided. If any word/s, alone or in combination, infringe the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 or any other provision of law, they shall be treated as severable and shall be replaced with words which give as near the original meaning as may be fair. They will not however, render the remaining terms and conditions void.

Jurisdiction: This contract was made at Stockport Academy and is governed exclusively by English Law. An Academy operating under one DFES number is defined as a single entity for the purpose of these terms and conditions.

Parent / Carer Agreement

We have read and fully support the Stockport Academy Charter.

Student Name:

Signed:Parent / Carer Date:

Signed: Student Date:

Signed: Academy Staff Date: