



ABINGDON

THE RULES

There are two School Rules, namely that:

1. Members of the School must obey the laws of the land. Any form of law-breaking, whenever committed, may endanger a boy's place in the School.
2. Members of the School are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with common sense and the conventions of good behaviour. Conduct likely to bring the School into disrepute may attract disciplinary action.

THE REGULATIONS

Matters not specifically referred to below will be covered by the basic principles defined in the Rules above. Separate rulings issued from time to time to cover particular aspects of School life are to be considered an integral part of these Rules and Regulations. Such rulings will be found permanently displayed on the School notice-boards.

All members of the School, whether or not they have reached the legal age of majority are equally bound by the Rules and Regulations. The Rules apply at all times during a boy's membership of the School. Boys must observe the Regulations whenever they are under School discipline, that is, while travelling to and from School, when in School uniform, on School premises, or taking part in official School activities.

1. **School dress**

Boys must observe the dress regulations as set out in the Clothing Regulations, always bearing in mind that to wear School dress is in a real sense to represent the School.

2. **Punctuality**

Efficiency at work, and consideration for others, are both served by a habit of punctuality-i.e. being on time, rather than ahead of it or behind it.

- (a) The School day starts with registration at 8.35 a.m.
- (b) Boys must be ready to start periods and all School activities on time. If a teacher has not arrived after ten minutes of a period, a boy from the class should report the fact to the Second Master via Masters' Common Room.

3. **Respect for others**

Any form of bullying or persecution of others is inexcusable and may attract severe penalties.

4. **Good order**

Good order is mostly a matter of good sense; the following points require particular attention:

- (a) The Grundy Library is reserved for private study for sixth formers and Middle School boys; boys must observe the silence rule at all times. The Hooke Library is open to all boys, but is principally used by the Lower School as a place of quiet reading, work and discussion. Eating and drinking in the Library is absolutely forbidden.
- (b) Changing for games and other School activities should take place only in the proper changing rooms.
- (c) No ball games except those authorised for House rooms may be played inside School buildings other than the Sports Hall or so close to School buildings that there is a risk of windows being broken.
- (d) Briefcases and bags are to be left in permitted areas only.
- (e) Food and drink may be consumed only in those School rooms specially designated for the purpose.
- (f) The noise of radios, CD players, etc. must not cause a nuisance outside the room in which they are being played. None of these machine may be used out of doors, or inside classrooms without the permission of a teacher. MP3 players and iPods etc must not be worn in school at any time except by sixth formers in private study.
- (g) It is the duty of any boy to deal with or to report any accident, damage, or untoward event.

5. **Courtesy**

Boys should try to be promptly courteous at all times; it is not possible to be made courteous by regulations, but observance of such guide-lines as the following will provide a basis of civilised 'common form':

- (a) Boys should remove their hands from their pockets when passing or speaking to a teacher or visitor to the School.
- (b) Boys should be quick to offer assistance to people visiting the School.
- (c) Teachers should be greeted when met outside the School.
- (d) It is generally considered ill-mannered to eat or drink while walking in the streets. For the same reason, boys must not consume food or drink while moving around the School grounds.

6. **Property**

Respect for property - including communal property - is a necessity if people are to live harmoniously together.

- (a) Boys who commit any form of theft, inside or outside the School, endanger their places in the School.
- (b) Damage to, or defacement of books, teaching aids or other School facilities is forbidden, and will be charged on the bills of those responsible.

7. **Smoking, drinking and drugs**

The School strongly discourages habits which are injurious to health or anti-social in their effects, and in particular:

- (a) Smoking is forbidden at any time when boys are subject to School discipline.
- (b) Boys under School discipline may not purchase or consume alcohol, or bring it onto School premises, except when given special permission to do so by a teacher or parent. Boys who abuse the privilege of a School occasion by excessive drinking may be severely punished.
- (c) The law on drugs must be strictly observed.

8. **Safety**

- (a) No boy may carry any article that might reasonably be described as a weapon. Sheath knives and flick knives are strictly forbidden.
- (b) Boys must not bring fireworks into the School, or explode them at any time when under School discipline, except under the supervision of a teacher.
- (c) It is strictly forbidden to climb on School buildings.

9. **Bounds**

- (a) No boy other than School prefects may go down into the town during teaching hours (including the mid morning break) without permission from a teacher. Lower and Middle School boys must stay on School premises during the school day, unless they have permission from their Housemaster.
- (b) Certain open spaces in the town – Albert Park, the Fitzharry's Castle Mound, and Abbey Gardens – are known to be frequented by drug dealers and boys should avoid them for their own safety. Albert Park is out of bounds.

10. **Boys' transport**

- (a) Bicycles must not be ridden anywhere in the School grounds. They may not be ridden in the alley connecting Bath Street with Park Crescent.
- (b) Bicycles must be left, securely padlocked, only in the proper sheds or racks provided around the School grounds.
- (c) Boys are strongly discouraged from using motor vehicles to travel to and from School. Boys driving cars and motor-cycles to or from School functions of any sort must not carry other boys as passengers without first securing permission from the other boys' parents and their own; the School is unable to accept any responsibility for such passenger-carrying.
- (d) Parking on the School grounds is available only for members of staff, visitors, and those boys with parking permits.

11. **Mobile Telephones**

Boys in the Lower School are not allowed to use a mobile telephone in School. Boys in the Middle and Upper Schools may use mobile telephones at break, during the lunch hour and after school, but not between lessons, during lessons, during supervised activity or private study, or at any formal School occasion. Mobile phones must be switched off when not in use. They must not be used to send offensive messages, nor to access inappropriate websites. The unsolicited taking of photographs or videos, by such equipment, is strictly prohibited, as is the sending of such material to other mobile phones. Otherwise they must not be used in a way which inconveniences others.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in the confiscation of the phone for a minimum period of 48 hours.

12. Societies and organisations

- (a) Each society, publication or other organisation in the School must have a teacher as sponsor.
- (b) Any new society, publication, or organisation must secure approval from the Head before it begins to operate.
- (c) Boys wishing to initiate or organise plays, concerts, or other activities, must secure the sponsorship of a teacher, and apply for permission to the Head, before making any firm arrangements.
- (d) Joint School activities involving girls from St. Helen's School must be cleared through the established liaison channels.
- (e) For visits outside the School, a society or organisation must have permission from the Second Master and all arrangements must be agreed between the supervising teacher and the Second Master.
- (f) Any boy wishing to display a poster or advertisement on a School notice-board must first obtain permission from a teacher. Fly-posting is forbidden.

13. Visitors

- (a) Any dayboy wishing to enter the School or to remain in the School after 5.15 p.m. (except when he is attending a rehearsal, a society meeting, or some similar organised event) must secure permission to do so from a teacher.
- (b) Visitors from outside the School should report to the Bursary (the Lodge) unless they have a specific arrangement to meet a member of staff elsewhere.

14. Punishments and Appeals

- (a) There is a published Summary of Rewards and Sanctions, which may be varied from time to time.
- (b) Every boy has the right of appeal against punishments which have been imposed on him. Appeals against punishments given by a prefect must be made in the first instance to the Head of School; against punishments given within a House to the Housemaster; and against punishments given by teachers to the Head, after consultation with a Housemaster, Upper Master, Middle Master or Lower School Housemaster, as appropriate. The Head is final arbiter in matters of School punishments. Any boy appealing against a punishment must first inform the person who gave him the punishment, and must appeal before the punishment is due. Frivolous appeals are themselves an offence.