

Managing Behaviour in the Vocational Learning Centre (VLC)

The aim of The Gateway School is to work towards maximum success for every individual and this policy supports that single aim.

In the VLC we aim to move students away from the highly structured behaviour management system implemented in the main school. This is to help students develop their self-management of behaviour so that they are better equipped to move into mainstream life and work-based learning experiences and environments.

It is important however that students still understand that there are consequences to their inappropriate behaviour which could ultimately lead to them being removed from the course or centre.

To support this, staff are able to give a student a 'strike' for inappropriate behaviour. Examples of behaviour when this action might be considered an appropriate response are;

- Failing to follow Instructions
- Disruptive behaviour
- Deliberate damage to property or equipment
- Throwing of tools or materials
- Putting self or others in danger
- Unauthorised use of equipment, including telephones
- Smoking

3 Strikes in a Day will be reported to Mr Lloyd/Mr Renihan who will decide how to respond given all the information. Responses could include exclusion for fixed periods or permanently, exclusions from specific courses or days or complete removal from the centre.

Where there is a serious breach of Health and Safety rules which endangers, or potentially endangers, other students or adults it may be necessary, following consultation with Senior leaders, to remove an individual with immediate effect (i.e. without needing to accrue three strikes) in order to maintain the safety of others and to protect property and equipment.

It is important that, wherever circumstances allow, staff provide students with up to three warnings that they will be issued with a strike. At the same time, it is important that students are informed of the required behaviour. Senior Leaders will include staff responses in their consideration of each case.

All strikes should be reported to Parent/Guardians/Carers who may be required by Senior Leaders and/or VLC staff to attend a meeting before students are returned to the VLC.

All strikes should be recorded on the appropriate form and handed to the VLC Administrator (Diane Hughes) who will collate the information and keep Senior Leaders informed.

The purpose of this policy is to support extremely challenging young people in gaining qualifications that will help them succeed in later life. It is not a means of removing difficult students from courses. Our role is to work with students in identifying their challenges and supporting them in managing these difficulties more successfully and, in so doing, prepare them for adult life.

All staff are also invited to request the Admin Officer to make positive telephone calls home when students have excelled in any way. Focussing on the positive and the acquisition of any full or part accreditations will always be more effective than a simply punitive system.